



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Time to Take a Hike!

Discover Noe Valley's Great Outdoors

By Lorraine Sanders

On April 18, 2005, I started getting out a lot more. Not that I was a recluse prior to that day, but I rarely left my apartment without a point, a destination, a specific must-do in mind. And when I wandered aimlessly, it was generally on the sunniest of weekend days.

But then I acquired a new friend, one with a fond appreciation for the great out-of-doors. There is, perhaps, nothing she enjoys more than a good walk. Of course, indiscriminate sniffing comes in a close second.

My fiancé and I adopted a rascally black and brindle mutt from Rocket Dog Rescue's 24th Street adoption fair last April and named her Dixie. As anyone with a juvenile canine companion surely knows, a tired puppy is a good puppy. Since Dixie's arrival, I've set out countless times in the name of doggie fatigue to traverse Noe Valley's hills, its stairway walks, and scenic vistas.

The next time spring fever hits you, you might want to let one of these neighborhood jaunts come to the rescue.

Short and Sweet

Craving a natural alternative to the Stairmaster at the gym? Noe Valley has several sets of stairs that combine city views with workout potential. If you'd rather stand at the top with a latte and enjoy the scenery, that's fine, too.

Diamond Between 22nd and 23rd: Five trips up and down these stairs will leave you panting. Hardcore fitness types

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The stairway off Diamond between 22nd and 23rd streets is one of the many scenic climbs in Noe Valley recommended by Voice adventurer Lorraine Sanders. Her story starts on this page (at left) and continues with more hikes and trails on page 15. Photo by Pomelo Gerord

The Seeds of a Neighborhood Tree Planting

Friends of the Urban Forest Hold an Arbor Day in May

By Liz Highleyman

When Stephen Fowler moved to Noe Valley in 1997, he loved the neighborhood, but felt there was something missing. "It seemed to me that Noe Valley had a lot less trees than many other neighborhoods," says the 25th Street resident. "I think trees are overwhelmingly positive in that they add color, attract birds, absorb carbon dioxide, and create a pleasant environment."

If you agree—and if you'd like to see a new crop of saplings gracing once-barren sidewalks—the time may be ripe to get a tree of your own. The group Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is sponsoring a May tree planting in Noe Valley. New trees cost \$150 each, including tree purchase and help with concrete removal and planting. But you'll need to act soon: The deadline to sign up for a tree is March 31.

FUF, a non-profit organization that believes trees are crucial to a livable urban environment, has worked with San Francisco residents to plant more than 40,000 trees since its founding in 1981.

When Fowler heard about FUF, he called to find out how the group worked and was recruited as a volunteer neighborhood organizer for Noe Valley. Since last June, Fowler and two other local organizers, Rachel Ratliff and Isabelle Salvadori, have convinced more than 30 neighbors to participate in the upcoming planting.

"There is such a psychic benefit to having trees around, as well as the financial

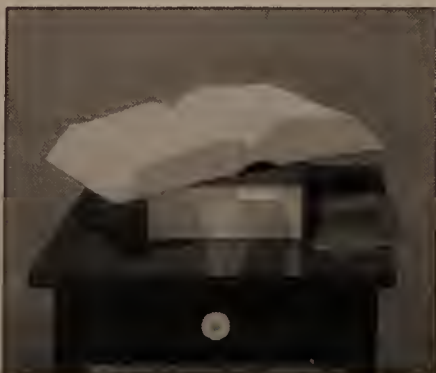
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Famed Artist Mark Adams Leaves Behind a Rich Tapestry of Color and Glass

By Steve Steinberg

Noe Valley lost a beloved artist earlier this year with the passing on Jan. 24 of Mark Adams. Adams, who was 80, died after becoming ill in December.

Married for 52 years to noted etcher Beth Van Hoesen, Adams lived for many years in a historic converted firehouse on



Mark Adams' watercolors, such as this *Three Books*, painted in 1993, often gave new meaning to everyday objects.

Photo courtesy of Morquand Books, Inc./ Chronicle Books and the John Berggruen Gallery

22nd Street, which also served as an art studio for him and his wife. Several months before his death, Adams and Van Hoesen moved to the Sequoias residential complex on Geary Boulevard.

Said Van Hoesen of her husband, "He was a kind, generous, very loving husband.... We loved each other very much."

Adams became established early in his career as a tapestry and stained-glass designer who could wonderfully blend art with architecture. He designed the windows for Temple Emanu-El, San Francisco's largest synagogue, in Presidio Heights. He also did the stained glass for Grace Episcopal Cathedral on Nob Hill. His tapestry works can be found locally at the de Young Museum and at San Francisco International Airport. Later in life he turned to watercolors as an artistic expression.

At a memorial service held on Jan. 29 at Temple Emanu-El, Adams was eulogized for his kindness and integrity. His good friend Tom Raffin termed him "a man who cared for others first, a man who did not need to be the center of attention,

essentially a lovely man with tremendous integrity."

In an interview after the memorial celebration, Gretchen Berggruen, owner of San Francisco's John Berggruen Gallery, which represented Adams' work for many years, also praised him. "He was an incredibly decent, thoughtful man, full of personal and artistic integrity."

Adams never embraced the limelight. A speaker at the memorial service told how Adams was once asked if he regretted that he was not more famous as an artist. Adams said no. To become more famous, he had said, would have meant more self-promotion, which would have taken time away from his art.

Although Adams was not Jewish, family and friends felt the temple would be a fitting site for the service. All around, the congregation was bathed in the intense light and color of the stained-glass windows that Adams had created. Additionally, Adams had been going to Yom Kippur services at the temple for the past few years and, according to friends, had gained a great deal of spiritual satisfac-



Mark Adams, shown here in 1985, was known for his artistic curiosity, which led him from stained glass to weaving to watercolors. Photo courtesy of Southwest Art

tion from the atonement rite.

Born in Fort Plains, N.Y., Adams decided early on that he wanted to be an artist. He attended Syracuse University,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Moving Day. Librarians (from left) Lourdes Fortunado, Carol Small, and Evelyn Alvarado continued to load books into boxes for several days following the Feb. 11 closing for renovation of the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library. "It's sad to pack up the books, but it's exciting to know the building will have the work it needs," said Small, who served as the branch's children's librarian for 16 years. In late February, neighbors were still awaiting sounds of construction at the 90-year-old building at 451 Jersey Street. But kids and parents were happy to hear that the library's story times and "lapsits" had found a temporary home at Bethany Church, at Sanchez and Clipper streets. Beginning Tuesday, March 14, they will be held weekly—the lapsits (for babies and toddlers up to 3 years old) at 10:15 a.m., and preschool story time (for ages 3 to 5) at 11 a.m. Meanwhile, readers of all ages should look for the library's bookmobile, coming to Noe Valley on Mondays and Wednesdays. The book-filled van will be parked in front of St. Philip's School on Elizabeth Street from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Photo by Pomelo Gerod

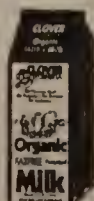
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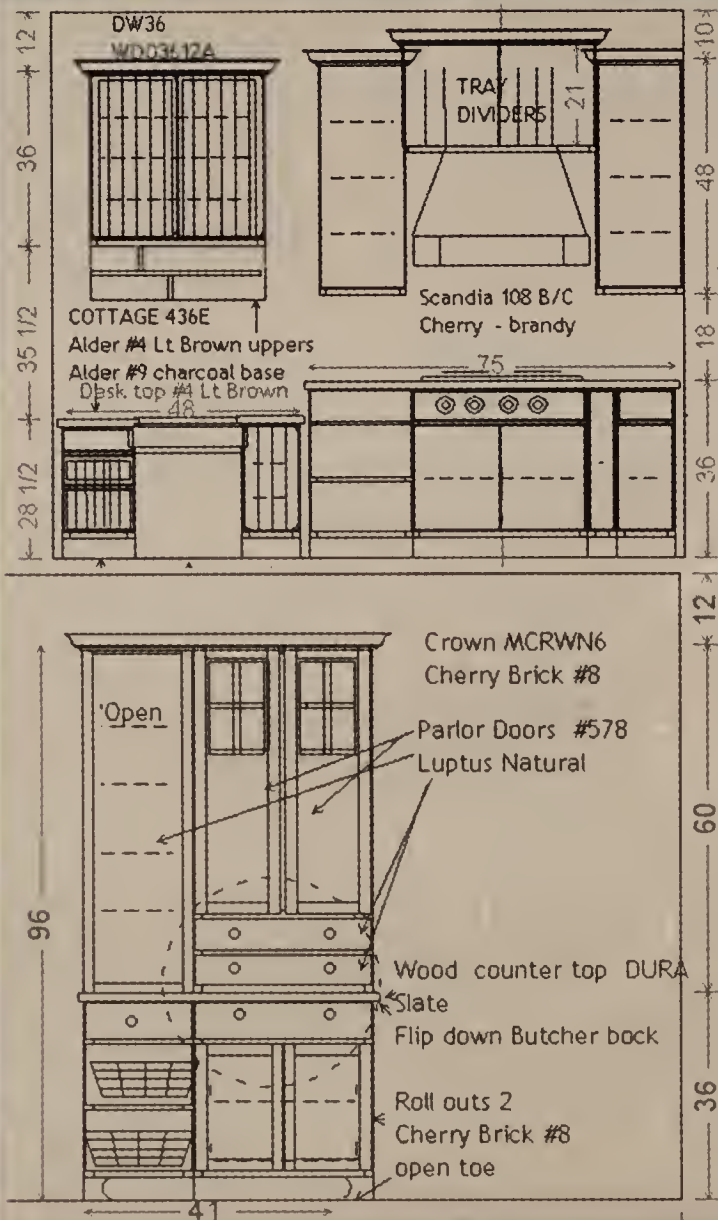
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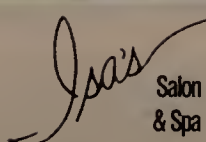
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Dear Linda,

Thank you for your tremendous work bringing my Noe Valley home to the San Francisco real estate market. As the result of your never ending dedication, I would recommend your services to others. You worked very, very hard making sure every detail was covered and everything involved in this complicated process was completely and expertly handled.

Very truly yours, Will King

In search of a realtor that we would feel comfortable working with, I found Linda Gordon's personal web-site: <http://www.linda-gordon.com>. I liked Linda's background and the fact that she has been in San Francisco since 1969. I read a couple of impressive testimonials and her *SF Chronicle* Readers' Choice Awards for Best Real Estate Agent definitely caught my eye.

Not having bought property before, Linda always took the time to adequately explain the process and the jargon, giving advice when asked. She explained that she would accompany us to see as many properties as we liked. I asked her why she was in the business and she said "I love to see people find their dream homes and play a part in making that happen."

Linda had a great sense of what we were looking for. One thing that still amazes me is how rapidly she managed all the details of the deal. We met in her office on a Friday and a couple days after calling her we found the property we loved on the first Sunday viewing. Escrow closed in three weeks and we moved in on the following Saturday.

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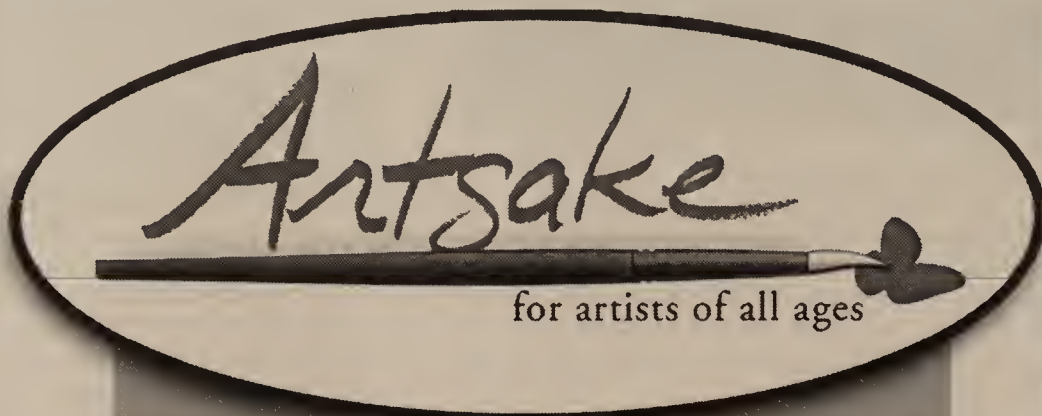
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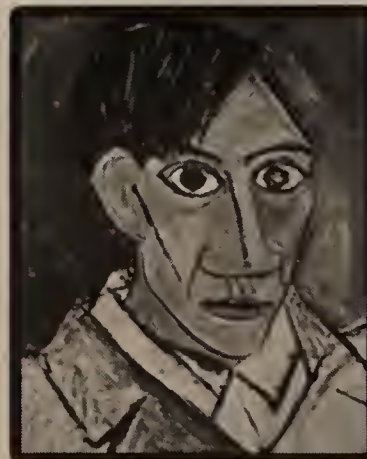
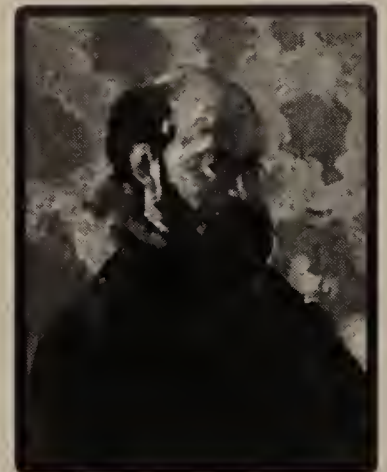
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1021 Sanchez Street
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The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$28 per year (\$20 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Editorial Office: 415-821-3324

E-mail: editor@noevalleyvoice.com

Web Site: www.noevalleyvoice.com

Distribution: Call Misha at 415-752-1726

Display Advertising:

Call Steve at 415-239-1114

Class Ads: See Page 51

Display Advertising Deadline for the

April 2006 Issue: March 17, 2006

Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: March 15, 2006

CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS

Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Olivia Boler, *Last Page Editor*

Laura McHale Holland, *Associate Editor*

Karol Barske, *Calendar Editor*

Corrie M. Anders, Heidi Anderson, Rosie Ruley

Atkins, Sue Cattoche, Helen Colgan, Suzanne Herel,

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Konecky, Laura McCloskey, David Moisl, Bob

Oaks, Erin O'Briant, David O'Grady, Elliot Poger,

Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Lorraine Sanders, Karen

Topakian, John Trinkl, Kate Volkman

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pamela Gerard, *Photo Editor*

Beverly Tharp, *Senior Photographer*

Jan Brittonson, Najib Joe Hakim, Leo Holub,

Charles Kennard, Ken Newman

PRODUCTION

Jon Elkin, Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

ILLUSTRATION

Karol Barske

WEB DESIGN

Elliot Poger

ADVERTISING SALES

Steve Steinberg, *Advertising Manager*

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Contents © 2006 The Noe Valley Voice

LETTERS 39¢

Who Is Doug Lockyer?

Editor:

Regarding Doug Lockyer's letter to the editor ("Who Is Peter Gabel?" February 2005 *Voice*): Some of us know Peter Gabel as a law professor and President Emeritus of New College of California. Locals like me know him as the neighbor who successfully led efforts to bring a farmers' market to Noe Valley and help keep Cover to Cover bookstore in business.

Certainly your staff knows who Mr. Gabel is, so why print Mr. Lockyer's slanderous letter in its entirety?

I have my doubts about Mr. Lockyer. He calls himself a "local" and claims he has "local friends." Really? Are we to think that neither Lockyer nor any of his "local friends" has access to a computer with Internet access? Otherwise, Lockyer would have known better than to call Gabel a "trust fund baby" or someone who "lives in a tent in someone's backyard." But Lockyer isn't happy insulting Gabel alone. He also belittles the staff of the *Voice* as being "mongering," "without balance," and "lazy."

While I applaud you for having a thick skin, I'd like to know this: Who is Doug Locker? And who does he think he is, insulting Mr. Gabel, the *Voice*, and the residents of Noe Valley?

Lockyer does not speak for me or the business community, nor anyone else in Noe Valley that I know of.

Daniel Strickland
23rd Street

A Neighborhood Hero

Editor:

I am happy to tell you who Peter Gabel is. Peter Gabel is my neighborhood hero.

He single-handedly saved Noe Valley's independent bookstore, Cover to Cover, from being a sad memory. And he is a genius. He created a concept to help Cover to Cover stay financially viable, in a resourceful, community-building way.

When all hope seemed abandoned and no sunlight was shining in Noe Valley, Peter Gabel saved my neighborhood bookstore, where I have been in a mother/daughter book group for eight years. I am a proud native of this fair city and a Noe Valley resident for 26 years. Peter Gabel re-energized my desire to remain in a city that has become very good at pushing working families out. Peter Gabel's creative vision made me feel proud to stay and raise my family in the greatest neighborhood of this marvelous city.

Actually, Mr. Lockyer, Peter Gabel cares deeply about the economic recovery of 24th Street businesses. It is Nutraaceutical that has left the Real Food store empty for the last two and a half years, causing the economic downturn and blight on that section of our street.

Martha Werthimer Curtis
22nd Street

Gabel Has a Huge Heart

Editor:

I got to know Peter Gabel when he finessed me into helping create the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. Before that, I'd heard about his accomplishments as a law professor, philosopher, and writer; as the guy who rallied neighbors to save Cover to Cover bookstore; as the soft-spoken, articulate man I'd listened to on the radio talking about spirituality; and as the visionary who started New College—good heavens, who starts an accredited col-

lege? I thought the guy must be 10 feet tall with a head the size of a Macy's Thanksgiving Parade balloon!

But the truth is, despite all his honors and accomplishments, Peter's head is normal-sized. His heart, however, is limitless. He is one of the kindest, community-minded, and intelligent people I've ever known. Doug Lockyer's frustration and anger is obviously about Doug Lockyer and not Peter Gabel.

Ironically, Peter is neither hurt nor angered by Mr. Lockyer's insults. In fact, had Peter not been the subject of abuse, he probably would have been the first person to reach out to Mr. Lockyer, offering to help him in his obvious unhappiness.

Paula Benton
Noe Valley resident

Getting to Know Him

Editor:

How amusing it must be for Mr. Lockyer and his friends to pass the time making bets on who Peter Gabel is. But instead of devoting so much energy to assailing him in the *Voice*, Lockyer would do well to take a more direct approach. Here then, are a few tips.

The truth is that getting to know Peter Gabel couldn't be easier. You might start by walking out your front door and heading for the Noe Valley Farmers' Market on a Saturday morning, where you'll most likely find him greeting neighbors and cleaning up at closing time. Gabel was the person who organized the group of neighborhood volunteers to create the market, giving Noe Valley a healthy and just alternative to the closing of Real Food Company.

After a neighborly, friendly hello, you could start by asking why Gabel feels it's so important to be an active member of the community. You could ask, for ex-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ample, about the time he approached Cover to Cover Bookstore a few years ago, when it was on the brink of bankruptcy, and selflessly launched a campaign to save the store. Within a few months, he organized a group of 40 "fabulous" neighbors, who invested \$200,000 and helped gather signatures from a thousand customers pledging to buy a book a month to return the store to success.

You could also ask what inspired him to join forces with a group of neighbors who were dumbfounded by what appeared to be Nutraceutical's blatant violation of workers' rights to organize at Real Food. Or what happened after he and several other Noe Valley residents came together to call several town hall meetings, some attended by over 150 people. Ask, too, how these people decided what we as a community should say to Nutraceutical executives and to the Allens, former Real Food landlords—concluding that proposing an open, human dialogue was best, even though our invitation was met for the most part with silence.

Or you could ask how you could become involved in his latest project to help raise much needed cash for the Noe Valley Ministry's renovation. Or how you could become involved in Gabel's new organization, Noe Valleyans for Community and Social Justice—a group dedicated to, yet again, improving our neighborhood.

I offer you my recommendations because only a few years ago I didn't know who Peter Gabel was either. But after witnessing how a beloved bookstore could be saved by a group of neighbors, he in-

spired me to step out of the comfort of my own living room and become more community-minded. Like Gabel, I am not a trust fund baby (I am a working mother of two), but have discovered the satisfaction in being part of something larger than my own insular life. Like Gabel, I don't presume to speak for the entire community, but I sincerely believe in volunteering at least a few hours a week if it means Noe Valley and the city can benefit.

Or, then again, you could spend your days making snickering wagers with buddies about a person you never took the time to know. A losing and sad proposition if I ever heard one.

Leslie Crawford
24th Street

Basking in Ignorance

Editor:

I would like to ask a few questions and make a few points regarding the letter from Doug Lockyer that was recently printed in the *Voice* (February 2006). First of all, I know I am not the only local wondering about the relationship between Mr. Lockyer, his alleged friends, and Nutraceutical Corporation. Who is Doug Lockyer? Why is he so eager to come to the defense of a corporation that obviously has no interest in what is best for the business community here, much less any regard for its former customers, the law, or the 30 employees it illegally sacked in order to stop a union campaign?

Local friends and I have a running bet as to whether Lockyer is (a) pals with Nutraceutical's attorney Steve Hirschfeld, (b) a trust fund baby, or (c) a fictional entity invented by somebody on Nutraceutical's PR staff. It is obvious that Mr. Lockyer—provided that he even exists—doesn't feel sufficiently committed to his pro-Nutraceutical rhetoric to present his views at the various Real Food's-related meetings that have been taking place

openly in the neighborhood over the course of the past two and a half years. (As far as I can tell, Lockyer has not been elected to anything; perhaps this explains his lack of civic engagement, seeing that Lockyer seems to view civic engagement as the unique province of elected officials and merchants.)

Let me be clear on this, Lockyer does not represent a majority of the people who live in this neighborhood, and he sure as heck doesn't represent me. Expressing himself with all the finesse of a 14-year-old neighborhood bully, he makes no good case as to why anybody should want to facilitate the efforts of Nutraceutical to reopen on 24th Street, when there are other responsible grocers interested in setting up shop here. If Lockyer cares to inform himself about the situation, rather than bask in his self-satisfied ignorance and paranoia, then he might consider attending the next meeting at St. Philip's.

M. Kelly
Noe Valley resident

New Life for a Small Bookstore

Editor:

In response to the unconscionable and vitriolic personal attack levied by Doug Lockyer against Peter Gabel in the February *Voice*, I have many things to say. But it all boils down to this:

I am a small business owner. That I can still make that claim is a tribute to Peter Gabel. When Cover to Cover had fallen prey to skyrocketing rents and a downward-spiraling city economy (9-11 hit this tourist town like a Mike Tyson one-two combination), Peter cared enough to step up and garner the support of Noe Valley residents to breathe new life into a bookstore that my partners and I had thought was a dead dream.

His energy was boundless, his efforts herculean, his passion and concern were both humbling and contagious. He didn't

do it because we were good buddies. He hardly knew me. He did it because he truly believes that compassion and morality can fuel a social movement and effect social change. It's about belonging to a neighborhood, a community where we can work together to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. I don't know that I even understand it well enough to explain it to someone else, but Peter's vision and efforts have allowed me to point out to my children that one person can indeed make a difference.

Maybe Peter Gabel doesn't speak for you, Doug Lockyer, and maybe he hasn't been elected to anything, but if he should ever decide to run for some elected office, he can count on my vote.

Mark Ezarik
Cover to Cover Books
1307 Castro Street

Editor's Note: There were so many letters written in response to Doug Lockyer's letter in the February Voice that we were unable to print them all in their entirety. Additional letters and more complete versions of some letters can be found at www.noevalleyvoice.com.

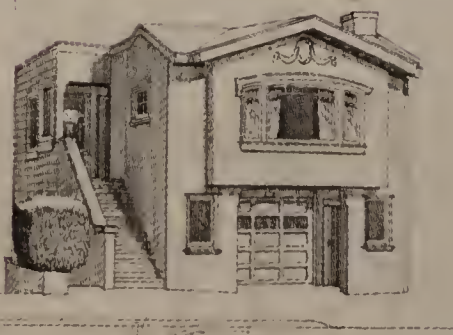
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Tree Brigade Holds Spring Planting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

benefit of increased house values and the environmental benefit of better air," says Ratliff, who lives on Noe Street. She thinks the FUF offer is a good deal. "It would cost much more to do it yourself."

Also sold on the tree-planting is Salvadori, a Romain Street resident and member of the "Green and Beautifying Committee" for Noe Valley's new Community Benefit District. "A street with trees is always more attractive than one without," she says, "and it shows that people care." She notes that the benefit district is coordinating with FUF to plant about 100 trees along 24th Street.

Do It With Your Neighbors

The Noe Valley organizers say the May planting will be a true community event. A representative from each household getting a tree will be asked to attend an informational meeting in early April. Then, on Saturday, May 6, recipients (at least one person per tree) will gather to help with the planting. The neighbors will work together until all the trees are in place. The event concludes with a potluck lunch hosted by one of the participants.

At the April meeting, Friends of the Urban Forest members will answer questions about the process, discuss planting-day plans, and help participants select their trees.

FUF Program Director Doug Wildman advises new planters to consider several factors when choosing a tree, such as the available sidewalk space, soil type, amount of sunlight, and the growth rate of the species. Magnolias and olive trees are two of the many species that have thrived here in the past.



Noe Valleyans (left to right) Stephen Fowler, Isabelle Salvadori, and Rachel Ratliff have enlisted more than 30 neighbors in a May tree planting sponsored by the Friends of the Urban Forest. Trees similar to these on 25th Street could be part of the leafy canopy. Photo by Jan Brittonson

"Noe Valley has a wide range of microclimates and is able to support a variety of trees," he says.

Tree planters also should pick a location that will pass muster with the city's Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW regulates a tree's proximity to intersections, bus stops, street signs, fire hydrants, utility poles, underground lines, and other trees. In addition, trees may not interfere with visibility for passing traffic.

Fowler says the first step is for property owners to complete the FUF letter of agreement and the DPW tree planting ap-

plication form, both available online at the FUF web site, www.fuf.net. The \$150 cost also includes a follow-up visit to check on the tree's health after 12 to 18 months. FUF will obtain the required permits from the city, handle underground utility identification and concrete cutting, order trees and supplies, and provide tools.

To sign up for the May 6 planting, contact Fowler at stephenfowler@yahoo.com or 648-4811, or Ratliff at ratliff@gmail.com. Those who submit completed forms by the deadline will be informed of the April meeting date and location.

"I'm really looking forward to the planting as a way to get to know my neighbors," says Ratliff. "We would love to have more people take part in this planting, because every tree counts for all of us!"



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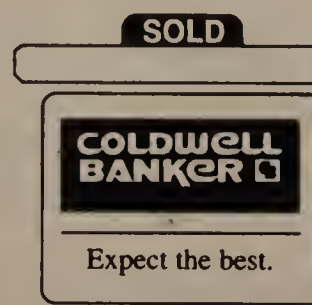


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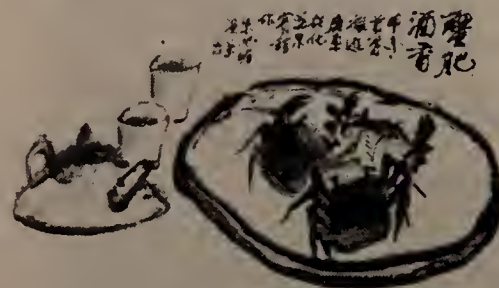
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Losing Your Records Can Be Taxing

So Keep Copies in a Safe Place

By Liz Highleyman

You may not realize how important they are until they're gone, but loss of personal, medical, and financial records can be a nightmare. (Think Hurricane Katrina.)

As part of its new program to break disaster-readiness into manageable steps, in March the Noe Valley Preparedness Committee is encouraging neighbors to duplicate important data and stash the copies in a safe place.

"This month, while you are preparing your taxes, might be an ideal time to jot down your accounts, make copies of vital documents, and put them in several places where you can retrieve them in case of emergency," says preparedness committee coordinator Mindy Kershner.

What Should You Collect?

Keep copies of any information that could pose a logistical hassle if it's destroyed or inaccessible. Some examples include:

- Identification documents such as driver's licenses, passports, green cards, and social security cards
- Vital records such as birth and marriage certificates
- Medical records, including prescriptions and vaccine records
- Pet registration and vaccine records
- Property deeds
- Wills, powers of attorney, and similar contracts

- Bank account numbers
- Tax records and receipts
- Insurance policy numbers and company contact information
- Personal property inventory with photos

Next, find a safe place to store your duplicates. Keep one copy of the most important information in your emergency "go kit." Other good choices may include an offsite office, a friend or relative's home, or a bank safe-deposit box. Better yet, keep records in multiple locations—for example, with a nearby friend to facilitate quick access in case of an isolated event such as a house fire, and with a distant friend in case of a major disaster that affects the entire neighborhood or city.

Do the same with backups of your computer files on CDs or DVDs.

Know Your Stuff

If an insurance adjuster asked for a list of property lost in a disaster, would you be able to comply?

"One should have a record of major items in your home and proof of their value for insurance purposes," explains Kershner.

Several home inventory tools are available online. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends a free household and personal property inventory program from the University of Illinois (www.ag.uiuc.edu/~vista/abstracts/ahouseinv.html). Don't forget to include serial numbers and purchase information (cost, date, receipts) for expensive items.

With the inventory as a guide, go through your home with a camera. Take pictures not only of big-ticket items, but also of things that have cumulative value (like books, CDs, and clothes) and items with sentimental or historical value.

"Think of the personal treasures that have emotional value to you and your

Artist Mark Adams Dies at 80

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but left before graduation to study abstract art in New York with prominent abstract/expressionist Hans Hoffman.

Later, to support himself, he dug ditches for a restoration project at the old Spanish mission in Carmel, Calif. When a foreman for the project became aware of Adams' artistic abilities, he asked him to paint the stations of the cross in one of the chapels. In the 1950s, Adams also designed store windows in San Francisco.

During this period, Adams came up with the name "hungry i" for a friend's new nightclub in North Beach. "It designated the first-person singular, with all of its various cravings," he explained in a 1985 interview. The club went on to become a San Francisco landmark during the beat era.

Sometime later, after developing an interest in tapestries, Adams went to France to study with famed French tapestry designer Jean Lurcat. When he returned to the United States, Adams began getting tapestry design work and later, as his reputation grew as an artist who understood architecture, stained-glass commissions.

In the 1970s, established and financially secure, Adams decided that large-scale decorative art no longer provided him artistic satisfaction. So he returned to painting, his early love, and specifically to watercolor. "I wanted to do something



Mark Adams named this painting *Houses Across the Street*. The 1987 work likely shows houses on 22nd Street, where he and artist Beth Van Hoesen lived for many years.

Photo courtesy Marquand Baaks, Inc./ Chronicle Baaks and the Jahn Berggruen Gallery

small, intimate, and personal...something that nobody was going to see for a while," he said in the 1980s.

Adams' watercolor style often involved taking everyday objects—a tie, a bowl of jello—and portraying them with new meaning through a series of vivid, delicate, and translucent color washes.

Adams had his first watercolor show in 1977. Soon his work was seen as far afield as New York and Paris. He continued to produce watercolors well into the 1990s.

"Mark had a unique vision," noted Berggruen. "His work gave tremendous pleasure to thousands of people."

Added his friend Tom Raffin, "The depth and breadth of his work was breathtaking. Very few have accomplished what he did."

family. The loss of the family photo albums can be devastating," Kershner says. "With a little preparation, you could preserve these irreplaceable memories by copying at least some of your most treasured images."

The next Noe Valley Preparedness Committee meeting will be March 13, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Kershner at 377-3890 or e-mail mindytower@aol.com for the meeting location. To get more disaster-preparedness tips, go to www.72hours.org.



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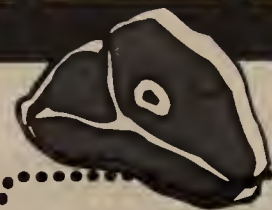
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Stairs, Trails, and Hills to Conquer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

add pushups on the flat paved area at the base, while those seeking a quiet spot to rest will find it on the bench located three quarters of the way up the stairs. From there, the view extends across the neighborhood and up to Twin Peaks.

Duncan between Sanchez and Noe: Head up the hill on Duncan past Sanchez for another fine set of neighborhood stairs. Simply reaching the short stairway's base is a feat in and of itself. Take the steps to the Noe Street summit and gaze back over the valley for views stretching out to the East Bay hills. This is a gorgeous spot to visit at dusk when the lights have started to twinkle and before the sky goes completely dark.

Douglass and Corwin: Douglass' northern end exits Noe Valley with a set of stairs that descends into the Castro neighborhood. At the top of the stairs, trees from surrounding homes frame an attractive view of Castro buildings.

Castro and Duncan: Head down the upper section of Duncan Street towards the heart of Noe Valley until you hit the tiny stretch of Castro Street that sits disconnected from the rest. At the end of a small cul-de-sac, a short but steep set of stairs descends to 28th Street. Perfect for a quick sweat-session, these shaded stairs offer a sweeping view towards the city's southern end.

Scenic Strolls

During my neighborhood walks, I rarely have trouble keeping my mind busy. Each building is so different than the next. Little gardens abound in tiny front yards, while various signs in windows announce everything from political outlooks to birthday celebrations.

When I walk, I have a few favorite games I play. The first is called *Guess What's in Back?* I'm endlessly curious about peoples' back yards and how they maximize what is often ultra-steep and limited space. Do they plant gardens? Use terraced sections? Throw their old appliances out there? What? What? The second, which I play whenever I see a For Sale sign, is *Guess How Much That Place Costs?* And, yes, I often go home and look places up online purely to see how close my guess came to asking price.

While any of Noe Valley's streets make scenic strolls, here are a few of my favorite routes.

The Harry Street Steps: To find this steep wooden climb, head south on Sanchez until you reach Randall. Turn right onto Randall, take your next left onto Harper and turn right onto Laidley. Harry Street ascends from between two houses at roughly 100 Laidley.

Harry Street's rickety-looking steps are flanked with greenery from banana trees, palm fronds, and winding vines. With the treetops creating a patchy canopy overhead, a trip up these stairs can make you completely forget you're in a city.

Once you reach the top, you'll be on Beacon Street. To extend this walk, you can turn right and follow the road until you hit Diamond Street. Take a left on Diamond, and the newly built Haas Park, which has a gated dog park and playground, is just up the road on Diamond Heights Boulevard.

To return to the heart of Noe Valley from the top of the Harry steps, turn left on Beacon and follow the road down to Miguel. Turn left where Miguel dips back to Laidley. Take a left on Laidley and enjoy the striking architecture of the street's homes as you stroll back to Harper.

The Complete Douglass: Ideally, one would begin this walk at the very top of



Glen Canyon Park is an oasis in the city that offers a winding paths, huge boulders, a trickling stream, and birds and other wildlife. The start of this dirt trail is at the back of Christopher Playground behind the Safeway in Diamond Heights.

Photos by Pamela Gerard



Nicholas Monsma and Steven Short (with guidebook) pause to see just how many steps there are to the top of Harry Street, a favorite destination for Noe Valley walkers.

Douglass Street, just past its intersection with Duncan. Begin walking downhill. To your right, there are lovely Bay views.

You will pass Douglass Park on your left. If you have a dog in tow, stop at the park's upper field for some off-leash fun. If you're with children, the playground in the lower park area is always a hit.

Continue heading down Douglass. You will pass Noe Courts on your left. Again, a great place to stop with either dogs or children for a quick water/jungle gym/grass-eating break.

After you pass Noe Courts, the rest of your walk will be fairly flat. Continue on until you've passed 21st Street and the road narrows. The Douglass/Corwin stairway will be in front of you. Stop for the view.

Head left on Corwin until you've reached the Corwin Community Garden. This small plot of land features 60 varieties of plants and counts 30 bird species as frequent visitors. Benches placed along the mulch pathways offer quiet resting spots.

Return the way you came. *Time:* Both walks take about 30 minutes roundtrip.

The Long Haul

Sometimes, your mood (and perhaps your bouncing four-legged companion's robust energy level) calls for a longer adventure. Both of the following walks offer all the rewards of heading out of town for a hike, without, of course, the heading-out-of-town part. Instead, you just have to venture a little outside of the neighborhood.

the narrow trails and scrambling at the base of the large boulders, where rock climbers occasionally come to practice. If you follow the main trail down into the canyon, you'll reach a wooden bridge that goes over a small stream. Cross the bridge, and you'll reach a wide unpaved road perfect for jogging or walking. That road ends at Glen Canyon's official O'Shaughnessy Boulevard entrance in the Glen Park neighborhood.

The Upper Market March: The stretch of road where Portola turns into Market Street offers sweeping, unobstructed views of the entire city. It's a busy road and can be windy and loud, but it's worth braving both traffic and the elements to see the city from this perspective.

From Noe Valley, hike up Clipper Street. Once you cross Douglass, there's only a sidewalk on one side of the road. Keep following Clipper all the way to the top. Turn right onto Portola, sticking to the sidewalk on the right side of the road.

You'll soon be walking along a stretch of Upper Market Street that overlooks all of Noe Valley and offers a 180-degree view of the cityscape.

Just as you're about to start getting annoyed with the cars whizzing by and sullying the ambiance, there's a large spiral staircase you can use to descend to Grand View. From Grand View, walk right on any side street to return to Douglass Street and Noe Valley proper.

If you're still full of beans, keep walking down Market until you reach the stoplight at Romain. Follow Romain past Grand View on to Douglass Street. When you reach Douglass, turn right and follow it back towards the heart of Noe Valley.

Both walks will take at least an hour round trip from Noe Valley. Have fun!

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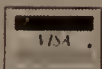
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Buyers Come to Their Senses

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley's sizzling housing market lost some of its heat in January as buyers took longer to make up their minds and refused to overpay for their new addresses.

Four single-family homes closed escrow in January, considerably fewer than the 15 homes that sold a month earlier. Three condominiums changed hands, down from the 14 condos that sold the previous December.

While January sales of detached homes and condos were comparable to one year earlier, there were several signals that the neighborhood was experiencing a less frantic market.

For the first time since July 2004, and only the third time since the summer of 2003, the average sales price for a detached home was under \$1 million. In ad-

dition, buyers in January barely met the seller's price, paying 99 percent of the list price. A year earlier, aggressive overbids pushed prices an average of 9 percent over the asking price.

Homes remained on the market for an average of 65 days before closing escrow. One year ago, buyers were picking up front-door keys in 46 days.

Condo buyers in January on average paid full price and closed escrow in 48 days. But condo buyers one year earlier paid 24 percent over the asking price and were ready to move into their new homes in just 19 days.

"This is what most of the real estate industry is referring to as a return to a normal market instead of the craziness that we've been going through for the last few years," said Randall Kostick, general sales manager for Zephyr Real Estate, which supplies monthly sales data to the Voice.

Still, real estate is not cheap in Noe Valley.

Buyers paid \$1,175,000 for the most expensive home sold in January, a four-bedroom, two-bath property in the 400 block of 27th Street, between Sanchez and Noe streets.

The costliest condo, a four-bedroom, three-bath unit in the 500 block of Elizabeth Street, between Noe and Castro streets, sold for \$1,310,000.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Jan. 2006	4	\$850,000	\$1,175,000	\$972,500	65	99%
Dec. 2005	15	\$675,000	\$2,145,000	\$1,203,533	37	106%
Jan. 2005	6	\$950,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,335,833	46	109%
Condominiums						
Jan. 2006	3	\$350,000	\$1,310,000	\$874,333	48	100%
Dec. 2005	14	\$575,000	\$1,510,000	\$890,321	42	105%
Jan. 2005	2	\$780,000	\$825,000	\$802,500	19	124%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
Jan. 2006	3	\$1,300,000	\$1,635,000	\$1,445,000	46	103%
Dec. 2005	4	\$937,500	\$1,716,888	\$1,233,597	56	106%
Jan. 2005	3	\$912,000	\$1,435,000	\$1,115,667	57	114%
5+-unit buildings						
Jan. 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 2005	1	\$6,160,000	\$6,160,000	\$6,160,000	99	104%
Jan. 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data.

NV 3/06

Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents February 2006	Average February 2006	Average A Year Ago
Studio	2	\$ 995 - \$1,000	\$ 998 / mo.	\$1,208 / mo.
1-bedroom	18	\$1,350 - \$2,450	\$1,797 / mo.	\$1,532 / mo.
2-bedroom	12	\$1,775 - \$3,600	\$2,323 / mo.	\$2,521 / mo.
3-bedroom	7	\$2,600 - \$3,700	\$3,016 / mo.	\$2,600 / mo.
4+-bedroom	3	\$5,200 - \$6,900	\$6,034 / mo.	\$4,950 / mo.

** This survey was based on a sample of 42 Noe Valley listings appearing on www.craigslist.com Feb. 6-15, 2006.

NV 3/06

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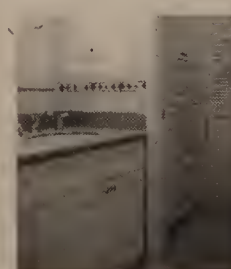
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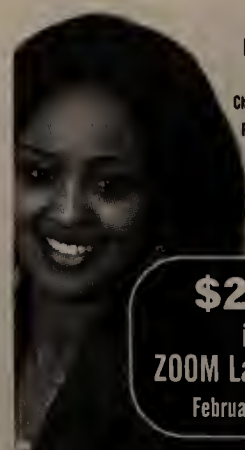
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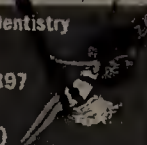


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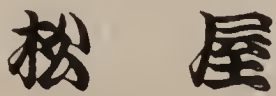
Burned-Out Streetlights	Street Lighting and Repair	415-554-0730
Graffiti		415-241-WASH
Illegal Dumping (litter, dog poop)		415-28-CLEAN (282-5326)
Potholes	potholes@ci.sf.ca.us	415-695-2100 (695-2020 after 5 p.m.)
Sewer Odor	24-Hour Odor Hotline	415-695-2096
Tree Hazards and Trimming	Bureau of Street Environmental Services	
	www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfdpw/trees	415-695-2017
Lost or Injured Animals	Animal Care and Control	415-554-9405
Traffic Signals Out		415-550-2736
Missing or Damaged Street Signs		415-554-9780
Abandoned Vehicles		415-553-9817
Aggressive Panhandling		415-553-0123
Illegal Parking	DPT Dispatch	415-553-1200
Detox	Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP)	415-431-7400
Homeless Outreach	(Ben Amyes, District 8 team leader)	415-558-1285
Utility Undergrounding	Department of Public Works	
	undergrounding@sfgov.org	415-554-4860
Whistleblower Hotline		415-554-2489

Other Handy Numbers

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services	415-558-7111
District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty	415-554-6968
24th Street Community Benefits District Dispatch	415-559-8683

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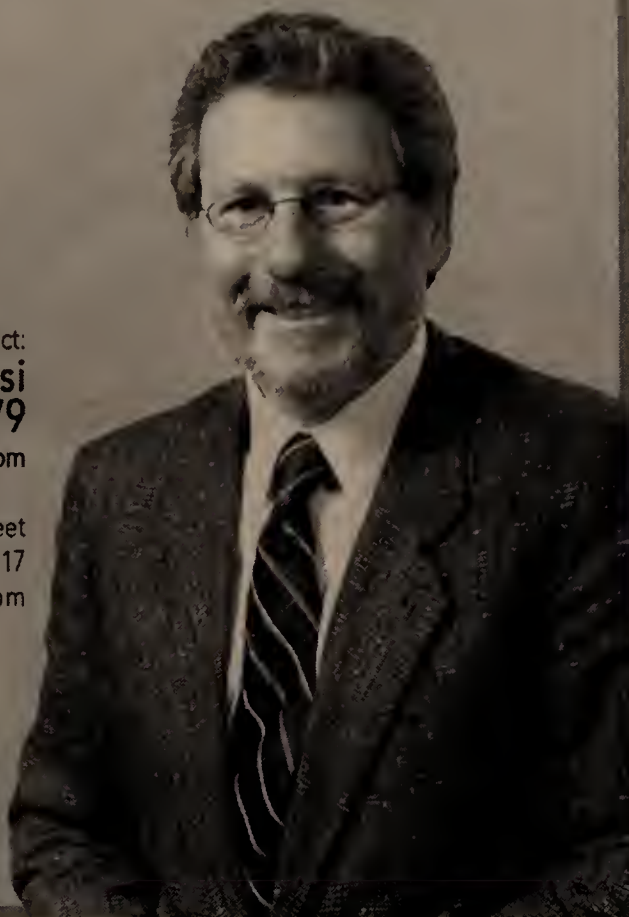
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a roundup of crimes and other police incidents in Noe Valley. "Noe Valley" is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 21st, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The neighborhood straddles two police districts, so the January 2006 crime log was culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside police stations.

Sunday, Jan. 1

Robbery on the Street with a Dangerous Weapon: Reported 2:45 a.m., 26th and Dolores streets

Disturbing the Peace: Reported noon, 500 block of Duncan Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 4 p.m., 400 block of Duncan Street

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7 p.m., 800 block of Church Street

Death Report, Natural Causes: Reported 10:50 p.m., 200 block of Valley Street

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Grand Theft of Property: Reported 4 a.m., 700 block of Douglass Street

Making or Passing Fictitious Checks: Reported 2:30 p.m., 300 block of Jersey Street

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported noon, Church and Duncan streets

Petty Theft from a Building: Reported 4:15 p.m., 3600 block of 21st Street

Petty Theft from a Locked Auto/Theft by Use of Credit Card: Reported 7:30 p.m., 23rd Street and Grand View Avenue

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 8:30 p.m., 1700 block of Church Street

Thursday, Jan. 5

Grand Theft from a Building: Reported 7:30 a.m., 1500 block of Church Street

Suspicious Occurrence: Reported noon, 700 block of 27th Street

Petty Theft from a Locked Auto: Reported 7:30 p.m., 24th and Guerrero streets

Friday, Jan. 6

Under Influence of Alcohol in a Public Place/Parole Violation: Reported 3:44 p.m., Church and Day streets; arrest, booked

Battery: Reported 6:30 p.m., 24th and Castro streets

Missing Adult: Reported 8 p.m., 23rd and Noc streets

Saturday, Jan. 7

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 7 a.m., 800 block of Castro Street

Sunday, Jan. 8

Petty Theft of Property: Reported 1 a.m., 1300 block of Guerrero Street

Battery/Committing Public Nuisance/Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 8:09 p.m., 24th and Church streets; arrest, booked

Monday, Jan. 9

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 7:30 p.m., first block of Day Street

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Burglary of Residence, Attempted Forcible Entry: Reported 2:13 p.m., 200 block of Lib-

erty Street

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry/Battery/Domestic Violence: Reported 4:34 p.m., 600 block of Clipper Street

Lost Property: Reported 4:40 p.m., Dolores and 25th streets

Attempted Theft from Locked Vehicle: Reported 6 p.m., Elizabeth Street and Hoffman Avenue

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7:30 p.m., Vicksburg and 23rd streets

Petty Theft with Prior: Reported 8:30 p.m., 3900 block of 24th Street; arrest, booked

Malicious Mischief, Breaking Windows: Reported 9:45 p.m., 3900 block of 24th Street

Friday, Jan. 13

Traffic Violation: Reported 9:45 a.m., Guerrero and 27th streets; arrest

Traffic Violation/False Evidence of Vehicle Registration: Reported 10:25 a.m., 28th and Guerrero streets; arrest

Saturday, Jan. 14

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 12:01 a.m., 200 block of Liberty Street

Drivers License Suspended or Revoked: Reported 5:10 p.m., San Jose Avenue and 29th Street; arrest

Burglary of Store, Attempted Forcible Entry: Reported 7:59 p.m., 200 block of Liberty Street; arrest, booked

Sunday, Jan. 15

Forgery, Notes: Reported 6 p.m., 1800 block of Church Street

Monday, Jan. 16

Vehicle Recovered, Stolen Outside of San Francisco: Reported 5:22 p.m., 4200 block of 24th Street

Tuesday, Jan. 17

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 9:10 a.m., 200 block of Hoffman Avenue

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Grand Theft from Person: Reported 3 p.m., 26th and Guerrero streets

Attempted Theft from Locked Vehicle: Reported 8:30 p.m., Chattanooga and 21st streets

Thursday, Jan. 19

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 4:20 a.m., first block of Chattanooga Street

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry/Fraudulent Use of Automated Teller Card: Reported 6:45 a.m., 400 block of Hill Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Unlawful Entry: Reported 11:52 a.m., 1600 block of Dolores Street

Petty Theft from a Building: Reported 1:01 p.m., 100 block of Day Street

Dog Bite: Reported 1:33 p.m., 400 block of 29th Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9:30 p.m., 300 block of Fair Oaks Street

Friday, Jan. 20

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 12:05 p.m., 300 block of Fair Oaks Street

Sunday, Jan. 22

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 8 a.m., first block of Grand View Avenue

Threats Against Life: Reported 4:30 p.m., 1000 block of Dolores Street

Obscene Phone Calls: Reported 7:25 p.m., 400 block of Diamond Street

Tuesday, Jan. 24

Battery: Reported 2:15 p.m., 3900 block of 24th Street; arrest, booked

Burglary of Flat, Forcible Entry: Reported

3:30 p.m., 700 block of Noe Street

Lost Property: Reported 6:34 p.m., 3900 block of 24th Street

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Petty Theft, Shoplifting: Reported 9:53 a.m., 1400 block of Guerrero Street

False Evidence of Vehicle Registration: Reported 12:47 p.m., 1300 block of Noe Street

Missing Adult: Reported 2 p.m., 400 block of 30th Street

Possession of Amphetamine for Sales: Reported 4:55 p.m., 1800 block of Church Street

Lost Property: Reported 7:36 p.m., 1300 block of Castro Street

Thursday, Jan. 26

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 2 a.m., 100 block of Vicksburg Street

Malicious Mischief, Graffiti: Reported 6:13 a.m., 30th and Dolores streets

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 8:15 a.m., 300 block of Diamond Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry: Reported 11 a.m., 1400 block of Noe Street

Obscene Phone Calls: Reported 11 a.m., Douglass and 21st streets

Aided Case, Mentally Disturbed: Reported 9:03 p.m., 300 block of Liberty Street

Friday, Jan. 27

Lost Property: Reported 1 p.m., 4000 block of 26th Street

Saturday, Jan. 28

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 8 p.m., 22nd and Noe streets

Sunday, Jan. 29

Attempted Theft from Locked Vehicle: Reported 7:52 a.m., 400 block of Duncan Street

Armed Robbery with a Gun: Reported 7:15 p.m., 600 block of Alvarado Street

Traffic Violation: Reported 7:50 p.m., Castro and 25th streets; arrest

Monday, Jan. 30

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 2:25 a.m., 4100 block of 24th Street

Obscene Phone Calls: Reported 4 a.m., 3900 block of 24th Street

Credit Card Forgery: Reported 9 a.m., 200 block of 29th Street

Hot Prowl Burglary, Attempted Forcible Entry: Reported 1:50 p.m., 900 block of Church Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 10:30 p.m., first block of Jersey Street

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Death Report, Cause Unknown: Reported 5:30 p.m., 4200 block of 26th Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 7:30 p.m., 3400 block of 24th Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 11 p.m., 400 block of Clipper Street

The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Andrew MacIrrath for providing incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were sorted by Voice staffer Karol Barske.

How to Contact the SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in the Mission and Ingleside police districts.

Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the Mission Police District) may phone Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mail SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444. For online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/site/police.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDIglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984. To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Captain Paul Chignell at Paul_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency situation in San Francisco, call 553-0123.

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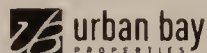
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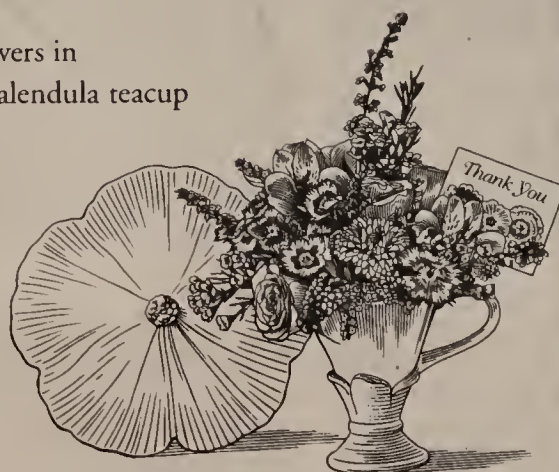
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Medical Student Writes a Brainy Book

For People Who Think They Lack the Neurons to Understand Science

By Heidi Anderson

When Shannon Moffett started medical school at Stanford a few years ago, she took a required course in neurobiology. The classes were anything but dull.

"Every class was led by an expert in some part of the brain," she recalls. "Each lecturer was so passionate, informative, and inspiring that I kept thinking, What a great way to learn!"

She liked the course so much that she decided to write a book—one that would share with the outside world some of the mind-blowing (literally) stuff she was learning about the brain from top scientists in the field.

The result is *The Three-Pound Enigma: The Human Brain and the Quest to Unlock Its Mysteries*, published in January by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

The book explores the latest research on that three-pound "block of cheese" at the top of our spinal cord—which Moffett points out is 80 percent water—through a series of personal interviews with scientists, doctors, patients, even philosophers. The lively profiles and case studies are interspersed with a timeline showing the human brain's development from conception to death.

Single-Cell Clintonia

Moffett says her research for the book took her far beyond her Stanford classroom. She traveled to Chicago, Boston, the Hamptons on Long Island, and to places all over the Bay Area. One of her more interesting subjects was a neuroscientist named Christof Koch, whose experiments involved listening to neurons through electrodes planted in patients' brains.

"He seems to have found single neurons in our brains that are active only when one is conscious of [a particular person or object], say, Bill Clinton," says Moffett. "This is the first concrete look, on a neuron level, that seems to have found the link between the brain and consciousness perception." (See excerpt, right.)

Moffett's book covers more than the microscopic, however. She interviewed a woman who lives with dissociative identity disorder (DID), formerly known as multiple personality disorder, a condition made famous by the movie *Sybil*. "Say 'multiple personality,'" Moffett writes, "and people think of Dr. Jekyll and the terrible Mr. Hyde or imagine inchoate screams and shattering glass.... But when [Judy] Castelli [her interview subject], a strawberry blond wearing a pink jersey top and striped pedal pushers, came out to meet me holding a coffee mug and ac-



Noe Valley author, mother of twins, and doctor-to-be Shannon Moffett occasionally finds a minute to sit and relax at Café Ponte on 24th Street. Well, very occasionally.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

companied by Dolly, a little multicolored terrier with a bandy-legged trot, the whole scene looked about as scary as a Folgers commercial."

She also visited a hospital operating room where she observed a team of doctors removing a bullet from the head of a gunshot victim. From that session, she learned that surgeons tend to leave most of a bullet's fragments in the patient's brain nowadays. More damage can be done by poking around the brain looking for pieces than by just leaving them in.

Perhaps the least scientific of Moffett's experts was found here in the Bay Area.

"I talked with Norman Fischer, a Zen monk who was once the co-abbot at the San Francisco Zen Center," says Moffett. "He believes that our brains are actually lenses of a vast universal consciousness, all focusing in different ways and channeling the same energy."

Moffett says that while the Zen stance is much harder to prove, she finds that on a cultural level it makes a lot of sense. "The concrete areas of brain research were easier to write than the Zen chapter. But it was a great counterpoint to all my other subjects."

Many Labors of Love

The book took about six years for Moffett, 33, to complete. During that time, she managed a reduced load at Stanford. (She'll graduate this June with an M.D. and plans to go into emergency medicine.) Oh, and she gave birth to twin girls last August.

The twins were born prematurely after Moffett diagnosed her own case of preeclampsia (dangerously high blood pressure) while working a night shift at a local emergency room. Park and Ivy are about 6 months old now, happy and healthy.

"I am definitely not clinical in my observations as they develop, but I have to say, even though they can't walk or talk yet, already their behavior is so complicated!"

She credits her sanity and many accomplishments to the girls' father (boyfriend of three years Mike Choy, with whom she lives), her nanny two days a week ("the most wonderful nanny ever—I dreamt I married her the other night!"), and about six professional journalists whom Moffett calls Mom, Dad, Uncle, or Granddad—in other words, her parents and relatives.

"I swore off journalism when I was in college," says Moffett. "I grew up watching all the legwork it took."

But after a brief stint as a starving actress in New York, then medical school, then discovering she had a passion for brain research, she says the writing part of *Three-Pound Enigma* came naturally.

"The people who live and breathe this

research every day have a hard time explaining it to lay people. I felt that, with one foot in science and one foot in the lay world, I could do this."

She credits her mom Nancy for the book's readability. A city editor for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, her mom edited the manuscript, and very critically.

"My mother is a fantastic line editor. She'd always come up with a better way to say something."

Moffett didn't write the book in Noe Valley—she and Choy have lived on Douglass Street for less than a year—but perhaps she'll write her future books here.

"When my boyfriend and I came to San Francisco to look around, I immediately liked this neighborhood. It's a great place with lots of coffeehouses, and it seemed like a place a writer could be happy."

You can pick Moffett's brain at a reading and book-signing at Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro Street, on Saturday, March 18, at 7 p.m.

From *The Three-Pound Enigma* by Shannon Moffett

Nevertheless, Fried and Koch may have found some such cells in their experiments recording from single neurons. "We have neurons," Koch told me, "that seem to respond very specifically, there's no question about it," to images of particular things and not others. For example, Gabriel Kreiman, at the time a graduate student in Koch's lab, found "one neuron that only responds to three very different pictures of Bill Clinton: a color portrait, a pencil drawing, and a portrait with him and two others—his wife and somebody else," he said. "The images couldn't be more different at the pixel level, but the neuron responds very strongly to all of them." The neuron was not active at baseline, when its owner wasn't being shown a picture, and it did not respond to images of other men, other famous people, animals, objects, or landmarks.

"Now I cannot exclude," Koch said, "that it might respond to yet another Southern Baptist politician, because we only had half an hour to record from, and you know, in that time you can only show so many images."

Excerpted with author's permission from *The Three-Pound Enigma: The Human Brain and the Quest to Unlock Its Mysteries*, © 2006, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, N.C.



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Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

Emotional Street Turbulence

By Anna Van der Heide

I'm not a politician or a social worker, so I can speak candidly about my problem with the homeless and street people.

Not that these people harass me, verbally or otherwise. They're just there. And that's the problem. In the small rural community on the East Coast where I live part of the year, I'd never walk past a person asking for help. Yet, during my eight years in San Francisco, I must have walked past a hundred.

Although no Mother Teresa by a long shot, I am a good person at heart. I don't like the idea that there are people in this opulent city who don't have enough food to eat or a place to sleep. Yet having to deal with the situation on a daily basis drives me nuts! There! I've said it!

I wake up feeling pretty decent, but by the time I get to work, I've seen the face of misery up close at least three times, been angry twice, felt guilty at least once, and am always pained by my impotence. On the way home, the turmoil begins again.

This roller coaster of emotions takes its toll. I call it EST, or "Emotional Street Turbulence." It goes like this:

On a good day—Monday, for instance—feeling fresh from the weekend, I might press change into the outstretched hand of each person on the sidewalk and warm to the smile or the "God bless" he or she gives me.

Yet on Friday it's a different story. I'm thinking, Here I am, a woman in her 50s, still working, ankles swollen, totally exhausted, dreading the wait for the J-Church, and some kid is asking me for a handout? How dare he! My mind is afire with recrimination.

Later, I berate myself for my meanness, my pettiness. After all, I earn \$25 an hour. How could I have refused to give something to that scruffy-looking young person who says he's hungry? It's not like he's going to go out with my dollar and buy himself a Porsche. Guilt sets in.

The next week, the kaleidoscope has shifted, and I try again. I map out a few strategies. My mantra becomes: "There but for the grace of God go I." I give

what I can with what I feel to be genuine warmth. I even try to pick someone I see every day in the same place for "scheduled donations." It doesn't work all the time because I don't feel like being a good person all the time. Sometimes I have to duck to the other side of the street so that the friendly fellow I've been supporting doesn't see me. I don't want to hurt his feelings.

But then—oops!—I encounter a panhandler who looks totally fit or I am accosted by someone in a state of repellent inebriation. My ship of emotion lurches. I reel out the familiar script: If they really wanted to, these people could stop drinking, stop using, get a job. Besides, where are the family members? Their friends? They must deserve this. No more money from me! No sirree!! I walk away in a holier-than-thou snit.

Righteous indignation lasts for days. I walk swiftly by, blinders on. I ignore the pathetic signs, the pleas. I pretend I don't hear the sound of a plaintive recorder, the painful screech of a violin played by an elderly fellow who can hardly stand on his pins. I ignore the sign of a young mother with a toddler, slouched against the wall in the BART station, asking for money for diapers and milk.

I don't like the idea that there are people in this opulent city who don't have enough food to eat or a place to sleep. Yet having to deal with the situation on a daily basis drives me nuts! There! I've said it!

But I can't keep it up. So I give in.

Now, having come full circle, from the day I gave to everyone to the day I blithely closed my eyes to an unconscious person on the sidewalk, I have arrived at a conclusion. This daily encounter with suffering is part of the plan. It's a way of not letting me get too smug. It's a constant reminder of my blessings and the fragility of life. It's a way of keeping my eyes and heart open.

So instead of being a "problem," it's a lesson. I am taught daily, on the streets of San Francisco, to be thankful and "for-giving." Even the anger and guilt I feel is part of being human. It's part of a day's work. Looking at it this way may not be the solution for everyone, but for me, it makes things a bit more bearable.

Jersey Street resident Anna Van der Heide is a poet, playwright, mother, and grandmother who has been a peripatetic legal secretary for the past eight years. A former editorial writer for Maine's Morning Sentinel, she retreats to her backwoods digs every spring.

Why They Invented the Coonskin Cap

By Dick Meister

I admit it. We have only ourselves to blame. When they first came to call, just after we moved into our house on 28th Street, we welcomed them. Eagerly. Naively.

"Oh, aren't they cute," we said as they scratched imploringly on the glass door leading to our deck, bright-eyed supplicants we couldn't resist. We laid out plates heaped high with food. We took photos. We showed them off to house guests.

We gave them clever names. "Rocky and the Rockettes," we called their merry masked band.

Boy, were we stupid.

Yes, raccoons are cute, and damn photogenic. But raccoons are not nice. And they are not stupid.

The tasty kibble we lavished on them wasn't enough. They repaid our largess with dead-of-night forays into our garden to dig for the apparently even tastier grubs that resided just beneath the topsoil.

It was not a pretty sight. Our furry former friends laid waste to whole sections of greenery. Flowers died, roots were uprooted. Green turned to brown.

We summoned a professional gardener. What to do? What to do?

"Shoot 'em," said he, a man from the countryside where that was an approved method of pest control. Or if not that, "Poison 'em."

But killing would hardly do. We live in San Francisco, after all—the city of St. Francis, friend of all things feathered and furry, friend even of marauding raccoons.

Trap 'em, said we. Just lure the little critters into cages, then whisk them out of the city and let them loose, free to dig to their little hearts' content in the wilds of suburbia.

That, too, called for a professional. For no little expense he put out the cages. And sure enough, within a few days they were occupied by screeching, very unhappy specimens of *procyon lotor pacificus*, if you'll pardon my Latin—ma raccoon, pa, and a couple of the raccoon kids. They'd soon be gone for good.

Gone they were—to be replaced in a few months by a crew of hard-digging look-alikes from the raccoon community, which obviously had gotten word of the superb cuisine chez Meister.

Ah, but we'd been overlooking the advice of garden columnists. They said, the lot of them, that keeping unwanted raccoons, deer, or other four-footed intruders away was simple. Just spray

Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

some hot chili oil on the ground or sprinkle some hot chili pepper around.

Well, our raccoons—perhaps being of Texas ancestry—weren't dissuaded one little bit by the whole bottle of chili oil and several large bags of chili pepper we spread about. Hell, they ate more heartily than ever.

Ever more desperate, we turned to a device known as a Sensor Controlled Animal Trainer, or SCAT, guaranteed to cause intruding animals to do just that.

It's a sprinkler equipped with an infrared motion detector. As soon as an animal crosses its path, whoosh!—a spray of water blasts the intruder.

It worked, too—for a while. But then came the recent morning when I found the garden in its pre-SCAT state of raccoon disrepair and the SCAT device covered with muddy raccoon paw prints. Must have malfunctioned, I thought, taking up a broom to wave in front of the motion detector for a test.

Whoosh! I was hit by a burst of water that soaked me to the skin, knee to foot. The sprinkler, which had been aimed in a direction completely opposite me, had been turned around during the night.

We're still seeking professional help, though—maybe a paving contractor, someone who might cover the raccoons' playground with asphalt. A tennis court would be nice.

Dick Meister is a veteran San Francisco journalist. You are welcome to contact him through his web site, www.dickmeister.com.



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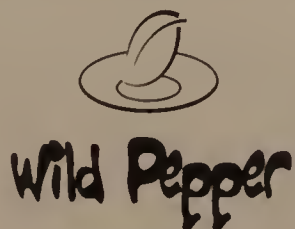
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SHORT TAKES

Murder Mystery in Paris, Take Six

Noe Valley mystery author Cara Black is hard at work on edits to the seventh Parisian murder mystery, even as the sixth book in the series—*Murder in Montmartre*—hits book stands March 10. *Murder in Montmartre* has already been chosen as an April Booksense Pick by the American Booksellers Association, and it



debuted this week at No. 10 on the *Los Angeles Times* best-seller list.

The story centers, as always, around private investigator Aimée Leduc. In this novel, Leduc must attempt to clear her childhood friend Laure of murder charges after the policewoman is accused of killing a fellow officer.

Asked how many books she plans for the series, Black answers, "Well, Paris has twenty *arrondissements* [districts], and I'd say that's six down and fourteen to go." She figures her protagonist has plenty of crimes to solve. "This crime novel genre gives me a great opportunity to tell a story and explore issues current in France today—immigration and social issues, the echoes of the Nazi-occupied past. But who knows?"

Fans of Black's novels can see her in person at readings this month, but they'll have to go outside the neighborhood. She'll appear March 8 at 12:30 p.m. at Stacey's Bookstore, 581 Market Street near Second Street. On March 9, Black will read at the Booksmith, 1644 Haight Street

near Belvedere Street, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.carablack.com.

Are Nursing Homes Our Fate?

Come find out the truth about long-term care in San Francisco at Bethany United Methodist Church's Kitchen Table Talk on Sunday, March 26, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Learn from the experts what the policies are and what important personal and public policy matters San Francisco officials now face with regard to providing long-term care.

Among the people who will discuss these issues are Donna Calame, executive director of the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority; Shireen McSpadden, deputy director of programs in the Department of Aging and Adult Services; and Marie Jobling, co-chair of the mayor's LTC Coordinating Council. District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty will also be in attendance.

The meeting will be held at Bethany Church, located at the corner of Clipper and Sanchez streets. For more information, call Marilyn Herand at 648-4092, e-mail her at mherand@cs.com, or call the Bethany office at 647-8393.

Philanthropy Made Funny

Prepare to howl. Now in its fourth year, 826 Valencia's annual Comedy Night happens this year on Saturday, April 1, at 7 p.m. The sure-to-be-hilarious lineup includes Sarah Silverman, Jimmy Kimmel, Patton Oswalt, Zach Galifianakis, and Al Madrigal—stand-up comedians who boast a dizzying array of TV and film credits.

According to Dave Eggers, well-known author and founder of 826 Valencia, "The 826 Comedy Night is always hysterical and kind of raucous.... The crowd comes to laugh, and every year so

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Music Series' 25th Hits a High Note

By Sally Smith and Erin O'Brian

It's a big year for Larry Kassin. The jazz flautist is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Noe Valley Music Series, the live concert series he founded in order to bring world-class musicians to Noe Valley on Friday and Saturday nights. Of course, Kassin is celebrating with music, and the party will continue all year.

"We'll be presenting some special events and bringing back some of our best artists from over the years," says Kassin.

Last month, the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-Time Festival was a special guest of the series, and audiences were wowed by four evenings of singing, fiddling, and foot-stomping.

This month, the series will feature revered guitarist Bill Frisell, who won a Grammy for contemporary jazz last year. "He'll have a sextet and add a piece he worked on with cartoonist Jim Woodring," Kassin explains. The four Frisell shows will run over two nights, March 24 and 25.

In April, the Eastern European women's vocal ensemble Kitka takes center stage. Then the series hosts its annual Bastille Day concert in July, with the Baguette Quartette performing Parisian café music from the '20s and '30s.

"I actually wrote a letter to Bobby McFerrin, but I don't know yet how that will work out," laughs Kassin. Jazz vocalist McFerrin, a former Noe Valley resident who now lives in Philadelphia, developed a huge following in the early '80s through regular performances at the music series.

When Kassin first started producing the concerts in 1981, he named the series Noe Valley Jazz. But after the first year, he was ready to expand. "[Now] it's everything from bluegrass to world mu-

sic to Tuvan throat singers to jazz and singer/songwriter folk and rock music." Tickets range from \$13 to \$25.

Kassin thinks the series' longevity can be attributed to its home in the Noe Valley Ministry. The upstairs hall of the church, at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd, has excellent acoustics. "It's a special place," he says. "It brings out the best in a lot of performers."

Asked what he'd like to say to his Noe Valley fans, Kassin replies, "Thank you for all the years, and keep supporting what we're doing. Keep supporting the arts in the neighborhood."

UPCOMING SHOWS AT THE NOE VALLEY MUSIC SERIES

Saturday, March 4, 8:15 p.m.
Jeffrey Halford and the Healers

Saturday, March 11, 8:15 p.m.
An evening of Balinese shadow theater performed by Larry Reed with live Balinese Gamelan accompaniment

Friday, March 24, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 25, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Jazz guitarist Bill Frisell and friends present a work inspired by visual artist Jim Woodring and recently performed at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Theater.

Friday, April 28, 8:15 p.m.
Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble presents "Spirit Voices," a cathedral concert featuring Kitka and special guest Tzvetanka Varimezova, Bulgarian folkloric soprano.

Concerts are held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. Tickets are available at the door and at Streetlight Records on 24th Street. For more information about performances and prices, visit www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

far they've left wanting more."

The show is for adults 18 and up, though it takes place in Everett Middle School's auditorium and is a fundraiser for 826 Valencia's Writers' Room at the school. The 1,400 seats sold out last year, so book your tickets in advance at www.ticketweb.com or over the phone at 866-468-3399. Tickets are \$20 for balcony, \$30 for orchestra, and \$75 for premier seats. To learn more about 826 Valencia's programs, visit www.826Valencia.com.

Dufty Updates District Dems

San Francisco District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty will present a district update at a meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15. The meeting will take place at the Noe Valley Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street.

Dufty will discuss future issues facing the Board of Supervisors and legislation recently passed or pending that affects Noe Valley. Among the topics he will tackle are the Real Food vacancy, the Bell Market lease, parking, construction, and the state of the 24th Street commercial strip.

Also, a member of the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Coalition will be on hand to discuss public financing of statewide and legislative races. Programs for statewide election financing are now in effect in Maine and Arizona, and similar plans are being proposed for California. Attendance at the club's meeting is free and open to the public.

Summer Writing Retreat in Tuscany

One of Noe Valley's own is traveling to Italy this summer to teach a writing workshop amid the rolling hills of Tuscany. Published poet and California College of the Arts writing instructor Zack Rogow, who lives on Hill Street, will lead the workshop July 3 to 9 at the Tuscany Institute for Advanced Studies in the heart of the Val d'Orcia.

The \$2,395 workshop includes day trips to scenic towns in Tuscany, local food and wine, and many opportunities for reading and writing. The group is limited to eight participants. To learn more, visit www.tuscanyinstitute.com.



School's Top Scientists: Congratulations to eighth-grader Haley Beffel, whose study of the effects of rising temperature on various solvents won first place in the annual science fair at St. Philip's School. Second place went to Dahnya Roach for her investigation of sow bug preferences, and tied for third place were Gavin McManus (a study of sandbag machines) and Maria Sol Castro (a study of cell phone use on reflexes). The students' science projects were exhibited at the Randall Museum Science Fair, Feb. 20 to March 4.

Photo courtesy Paula Whitehead

25 Years of Anything Goes

Is there anything the Noe Valley Ministry building has *not* been used for? In 1983, a group of adults began singing in the church basement under the direction of jazz vocalist, pianist, composer, and choral director Ellen Robinson. The group was called Anything Goes Chorus (after the Cole Porter song). There was a sister group with the same name in Oakland, which Robinson had started two years earlier.

Noe Valley resident and tenor Lynne Sonenberg recalls that in the early days "we met weekly, alternating with the 12-step groups and the preschool. Ellen has a wonderfully eclectic musical taste, and she encouraged people to let their joy flow forth in song."

The groups have now been singing four-part harmony to jazz, pop, Broadway, folk, spirituals, and oldies for 25 years. The choruses are truly community-based. There are no auditions, and folks who can hold their part in harmony singing are welcome. In addition, the singers give back to their community by raising money for local groups. Last year, the San Francisco chorus, which now operates out of Community Music Center on Capp Street, gave a fundraising performance for the Glen Park Library.

To celebrate the first 25 years of Anything Goes, Robinson will conduct both the San Francisco and Oakland choruses in a rousing concert on Saturday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m., at the First Congregational Church in Oakland, 2501 Harrison Street at 27th Street. Tickets are \$15.

For information on joining the next session of the San Francisco Anything Goes Chorus, call Community Music Center at 647-6015.

—Betsy Bannerman

Salsa Heats Up the Mission

Dance SF offers two four-week salsa dance classes in San Francisco this month. The closest ones are held on Sunday afternoons at Studio J, located at 2407 Harrison Street between 20th and 21st streets. Absolute beginners start at 4 p.m., and the intermediate class follows at 5:30 p.m. on March 5, 12, 19, and 26.

If your Sundays are full and you're willing to travel, you might also consider the Monday evening course, which will be held at the Pick Ballroom at 380 18th Avenue (at Geary Boulevard) on March 6, 13, 20, and 27. Whichever class you choose, you don't need a partner. No salsa experience is needed for the beginner classes. Folks who already know the basics should sign up for the intermediate classes.

The cost for one class is \$15, or participants can buy all four in advance for \$50. To find out more, visit www.dancesf.com, e-mail info@dancesf.com, or call 668-9936.

Art You Can Keep

Creativity Explored, a gallery and school for artists with developmental disabilities, presents a new exhibit this month. Titled "Vessels," the exhibit showcases handmade containers for the home as part of the gallery's annual tradition of presenting functional artwork.

Visitors will find everything from bowls to vases to lunch boxes—and even an animal carrier—available to view and purchase. The opening reception takes place on Thursday, March 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., and the exhibit will be open March 9 through April 27, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Creativity Explored Gallery is located at 3245 16th Street at Guerrero. For more information, call 863-2108 or visit www.creativityexplored.org.

This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant, unless otherwise noted.



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• MARCH 2006 •

March 1-31: The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60. 12:30 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call 648-1030 to make a reservation.

March 1-31: Chris Sequeira leads classes in Tai Chi. Mon. and Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am. Call 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857 for location.

March 2-11: The San Francisco School of the Arts performs *City of Angels*, a Tony Award-winning MUSICAL COMEDY. Thurs.-Sat., 7:30 pm; Sat. and Sun., 2:30 pm. 555 Portola Drive. 695-5720

March 3-April 9: BEN PETERSON exhibits new drawings and sculpture in "You Build It, We Burn It," at Ratio 3 Gallery. Sun., noon-5 pm, and by appointment. 903 Guerrero St. 646-732-3371.

March 4: Jettrey Halford and the Healers perform rootsy rock at a BENEFIT CONCERT for the Reading Center. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

March 4, 11 & 18: The Noe Valley NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) offers a three-Saturday TRAINING. 9 am-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 970-2024 or www.sfgov.org/sfndnert.

March 4-26: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center hosts Mission Trail MURAL WALKS. Sat. and Sun., 11 am and 1:30 pm. For a schedule, call 285-2287.

March 5: Rocket DOG RESCUE introduces pups who need homes. Noon-4 pm. In front of Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

March 5: DanceSF offers SALSA DANCE classes "for everyone!" at Studio J. 4-5:30 pm. 2407 Harrison St. 668-9936.

March 5 & 19: City Guides hosts a tour of the MISSION DOLORES neighborhood on the first and third Sundays of the month. Noon. Meet at the gold-painted fire hydrant on the southeast corner of Church and 20th streets. 557-4266.

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: A Basic SAT WORKSHOP, recommended for students scoring below 1150, covers test-taking techniques. 6-8:30 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. Call 355-5735 to register.

March 7, 14, 21 & 28: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers weekly MEDITATION CLASSES. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th St. 503-1187

March 8: The UCSF Women's GLOBAL HEALTH Imperative presents a public briefing on "Women, Poverty, and HIV" 5:30-7 pm. Veterans War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. 731-5539.

March 8: Bill Yenne's *San Francisco's NOE VALLEY* will be one of the featured titles in a discussion and book-signing for Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. 6-8 pm. Borders Mission Bay, 200 King St. 357-9931.

March 8: A WOMEN'S DAY reading features Diane di Prima, Sharon Doubiago, Dodie Bellamy, Geri Digiorno, and Nancy Keane. 7:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

March 9: St. Luke's Hospital offers an orientation for VOLUNTEERS to assist in the hospital or serve as patient escorts. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

March 9: CARA BLACK signs her sixth Aimée Leduc mystery, *Murder in Montmartre*. 7 pm. The Booksmith, 1644 Haight St. 863-8688.

March 9: The FRIENDS of Noe Valley community meeting begins at 7:30 pm. St. Philip Parish Hall, Diamond St. between 24th and Elizabeth. 206-0231.

March 9-April 27: Creativity Explored exhibits "VESSELS," functional items made by artists with developmental disabilities. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108.

March 11: A VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE TOUR, hosted by the S.F. Bicycle Coalition, travels through the Western Addition, the Haight, and Pacific Heights. Meet at 10 am at Alamo Square, Hayes and Scott. 431-BIKE.



The Sippy Cups bring their flower power to Cafe du Nord on March 12, 4 pm.

Photo by Martha Jenkins

March 11: Learn techniques for GRDWINING FOOD, at a workshop at the Garden for the Environment. 10 am-noon. Seventh Avenue at Lawton. 731-5627.

March 11: A PLANT SALE at the Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park features native flora. 10 am-1 pm. Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way. 661-1316.

March 11: A LEGAL ADVICE clinic at the Main Library requires sign-ups between 10:30 and noon for free private consultations before 2 pm. Latino/Hispanic Room, 100 Larkin St. 989-1616.

March 11: The group Radical Women hosts a tribute to SISTER RESISTERS, with poetry and music, to celebrate International Women's Day. International supper at 6 pm; celebration at 7 pm. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

March 11: Larry Reed's ShadowPlay Theater presents a show featuring BALINESE shadow puppets and the Gamelan Music Ensemble. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

March 12: The nonprofit organization Boys Hope Girls Hope holds an OPEN HOUSE and dedication of its new academic-based home for youth in the St. Philip convent building. 2-4 pm. 4174 24th St. 291-8166.

March 12: Neighbors opposed to the proposed ROOFTOP HELIPAD at S.F. General meet at 2 pm. Brava Theater, 2781 24th St. www.stophelipad.com.

March 12: The SIPPY CUPS band performs two shows at Cafe du Nord, at 1 and 4 pm. 2174 Market St. 861-5016.

March 12: Meghan Elliott from the Safe Schools Coalition discusses the challenges facing LGBT students, at PFLAG. 2-4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

March 12: MUSIC PACIFICA performs works by Vivaldi, Marais, Rameau, and Telemann, and "rustic" music from Spain, Mexico, and Scotland. 4 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

March 12 & 26: City Guides hosts a tour, "CASTRO: Tales of the Village," on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. 11 am. Meet at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro and Market, under the rainbow flag. 557-4266.

March 13: Screenwriter/author Dan Bessie and his wife, author Jeanne Bessie, read from their books at the ODD MONDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. No-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm; program, 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. jlsender@webtv.net.

March 13: The Noe Valley PREPAREDNESS GROUP meets at 6:30 pm. For location and information, call Mindy Kershner at 377-3890.

March 13: The third PROGRESSIVE Reading Series, to benefit the Fighting Dems (Iraq war veterans running for Congress in 2006), features Julie Orringer, Kirk Read, Geoff Brock, Beth Lisick, and Josh Davis, with host Stephen Elliott. 7 pm. The Makeout Room, 3225 22nd St. 647-2888.

March 13: MATTHEW BARNEY, filmmaker of *The Cremaster Cycle*, screens *De Lamalama*, shot in Salvador, Bahia, during Carnival in 2004. 7:30 pm. San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St. 771-7020.

March 13 & 14: Z Space Studio's Word for Word presents the 11th annual Bon Voyage benefit, *Immortal Heart*, by AMY TAN. 8 pm. Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida St. 437-6775.

March 14: New College of California School of Law sponsors a workshop on "How to Present a Case in Small CLAIMS COURT." 6 pm. 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

March 14: Bill Morgan, author of *The BEAT GENERATION in San Francisco*, gives a virtual walking tour of local homes and haunts. 6:30-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

March 14: Artery offers a six-week class, "BEADWORK Jewelry," for students 13 and up. Tuesdays, 7-8 pm. 1311 Church St. 285-0235.

March 14, 15, 17 & 29: DPW holds a series of City Hall hearings on proposed rate increases for residential GARBAGE pickup. To confirm times and locations, call 1-866-848-3337; www.sfdpw.org.



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• CALENDAR •



March 14, 21 & 28: Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS, for newborns through age 3, now take place on Tuesdays at Bethany United Methodist Church. 10:15 am. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

March 14, 21 & 28: Noe Valley Library's preschool STORY TIME, for kids 3 to 5, is at 11 am. Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

March 15: Community Care Licensing offers a CHILOCARE LICENSING orientation, 9 to 11:30 am, followed by a support workshop, 12:30 pm. Children's Council, 445 Church St. 343-3333.

March 15: AARON SHURIN reads from *In the Bars of Heaven and Hell*, a history of gay San Francisco in the late 1960s 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

March 15: Supervisor BEVAN OUFFY presents a district update on recent legislation, at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-4010.

March 16-26: The 24th San Francisco International ASIAN-AMERICAN FILM Festival includes screenings at the Castro Theater. For a schedule, call 865-1588 or visit www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org.

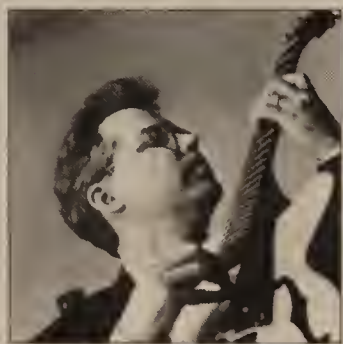
March 17: Chris Myers teaches a six-week class for ages 7 to 9 on ARTBOTS, robots made from found objects. 4-5:30 pm. 1311 Church St. 285-0235.

March 17: Alcoholocaust presents a ST. PATRICK'S DAY blowout, with punk rock karaoke and live music. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia St. 552-7788.

March 17: MICHELLE TEA introduces her new book *Rose of No Man's Land*, Stephen Elliott, Tara Jepsen, Beth Lisick, and Katia Noyes read also. 7 pm. Varnish Fine Art, 77 Naloma St. Co-hosted by Modern Times, 282-9246.

March 18: A STOP THE WAR march on the third anniversary of the "Shock and Awe" invasion of Iraq begins 11 am at the Civic Center. 821-6545; www.answer-coalition.org.

March 18: A four-hour STREET SKILLS BIKE ED course offered by the S.F. Bicycle Coalition stresses safety and enjoyment. 11 am. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 431-BIKE.



Grammy winner Bill Frisell and friends will perform March 24 and 25 at the Noe Valley Music Series. Photo by Kevin Ellsworth

March 18: Author Shannon Moffett reads from *The Three-Pound Enigma: The HUMAN BRAIN and the Quest to Unlock Its Mysteries*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

March 19: Modern Times Bookstore hosts a PARTY to debut its new T-shirt, designed by artist Ellory Russian. 4 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

March 19: The San Francisco Children's Chorus, directed by Beth Wilmurt, and the Teen Singers, led by Candy Forest, perform International FOLK SONGS and musical theater selections. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

March 20: A GROUP READING of Eliot Weinberger's *What I Heard About Iraq* marks the third anniversary of the Iraq invasion. 7:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

March 21: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center offers a community MURAL ARTS education workshop for artists, teachers, and mural admirers. 7-9 pm. 348 Precita St. 285-2287.

March 21: Ingleside Police Station holds its regular POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting. 7 pm. Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane. 404-4000.

March 23: The Nick Barrone PUPPETS perform *Puss in Boots*, for children of all ages. 3:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

March 23: Ken Lajoie discusses "The GEOLOGICAL HISTORY of the Bay Area," as part of the S.F. Natural History Lecture Series at the Randall Museum. 7:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

March 24: "Introduction to SOFT PASTEL and Pastel Carre" is a new class at Artsake that runs for six weeks. Fridays, 7-8:30 pm. 3961 24th St. 695-0506.

March 24 & 25: The Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES celebrates its 25th anniversary with a concert by jazz guitarist Bill Frisell and his 858 Quartet +2. 7:30 and 9:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

March 24 & 31: CHANTICLEER performs Brumel's *Earthquake Mass* at Grace Cathedral. 8 pm. 1100 California St. 392-4400; www.chanticleer.org.

March 25: The Randall Museum hosts a Corona Heights Park HABITAT RESTORATION work party: weed removal, trail maintenance, and ecosystem education. 10 am-noon. Meet at 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

March 25: Artsake offers a five-week class in CARTOONING and comic strip art. Saturdays, 10:30-12:30 pm. 3961 24th St. 695-0506.

March 25: The S.F. and Oakland chapters of Anything Goes CHORUS celebrate their 25th anniversary with a concert. 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland. 647-6015.

March 26: A panel discussion, "Kitchen Table Talks," explores the future of LONG-TERM CARE in San Francisco. 1-2:30 pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 648-4092.

March 26: The INA CHALIS Opera Ensemble performs Mozart's *The Impresario*, in honor of the 250th anniversary of his birthday. 2 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

March 27: The OOO MONOAYS series features a film, *Daughter from Danang*, and conversation with one of the filmmakers, Gail Dolgin. No-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm; program, 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. jisender@webtv.net.

March 28: The POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting at Mission Police Station begins at 6 p.m. 630 Valencia St. 558-5400.

March 29: In "GENERATION T: 108 Ways to Transform a T-Shirt," Megan Nicolay suggests ways to recycle garments into peasant skirts, braided rugs, and even a wedding dress. 5-6:30 pm. Excelsior Library, 4400 Mission St. 355-2868.

March 29: Nature in the City talks continue with "What's Natural About NATURAL OISASTERS?", hosted by the City Lights Foundation and Counterpulse. 8 pm. 1310 Mission St. 626-2060.

March 30: A PORTRAIT AUCTION and party, "Strike a Pose," features likenesses of San Francisco notables, including

Gavin Newsom, George Lucas, and Rev. Cecil Williams, by the artists of Creativity Explored. 7-10 pm. 111 Minna Gallery, 111 Minna St. 863-2108.

March 30: The S.F. Conservatory of Music performs a CONCERT at the Mission Branch Library. 3 pm. 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

March 30: UPPER NOE Neighbors meets at 7:30 pm at Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets. Call 285-0473 to confirm.

March 31: KATIA NOYES discusses life, writing, and her debut novel *Crashing America*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

April 1: Friends of Noe Valley welcomes new volunteers at "CLEAN SWEEP No. 4," starting at Noe Courts park. Tools and supplies provided. 9 am-noon. Oouglass and 24th streets. 206-0231.

April 1: The fourth annual COMEDY NIGHT at 826 Valencia, "An Evening of a Thousand Scowls," features Sarah Silverman, Jimmy Kimmel, and others, to benefit student programs. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. 642-5778.

April Flowers

The April 2006 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will be distributed on or before April 1. The deadline for calendar items is **March 15**. Please note that because of space limitations, Noe Valley events take priority. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send an e-mail to Calendar Editor Karol at calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.

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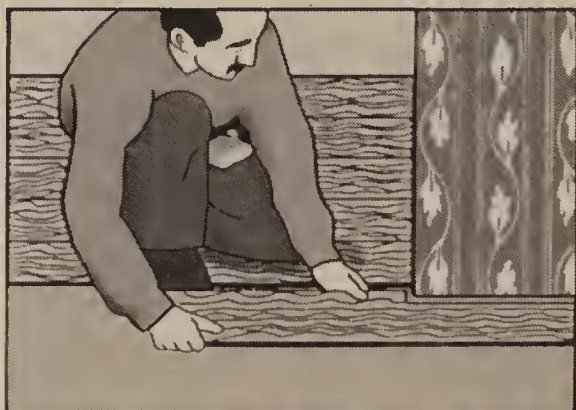
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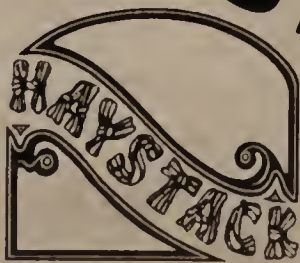
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Noe Valley Weather



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Our Winter Skies showed the dramatic promise of rain showers amid patches of sun. Noe Valley adults, dogs, and kids kept watch or braved the elements that washed over our city streets.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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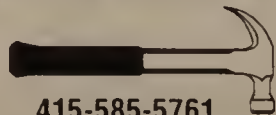
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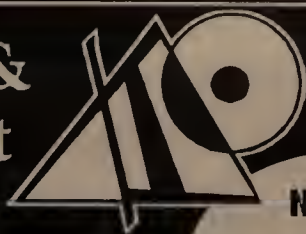
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Spring Forward Reading

March may bring some rain and cool temperatures, but that's unlikely to force locals to seek other climates. Noe Valleyans just like to travel. Living in the best neighborhood in the world means it's so good to come home again. And if they miss 24th Street, they can always take a vivid reminder with them: a copy of the *Noe Valley Voice*. And the communicators among them can fill us in on their adventures by mailing photos and caption info to: *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or by e-mailing editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Join them, join us. Write today.



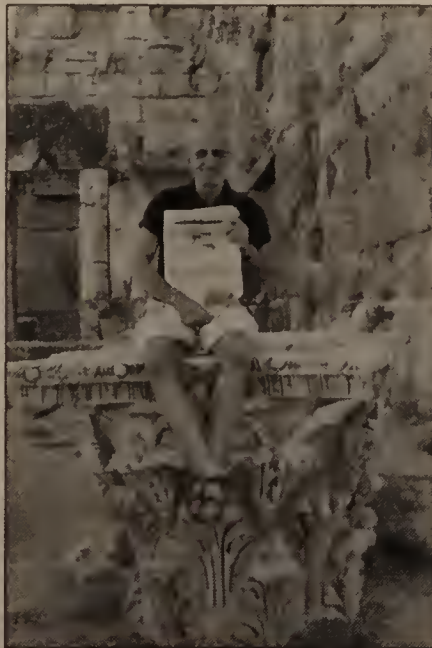
Christine Kromer and James Park loved trekking in the Sahara Desert near Morocco almost as much as they enjoyed reading the news from home. Here they finish up the Calendar section while Gerard the Camel patiently awaits orders from Hussein, his driver.



Relax, parents, these kids are not on a surprise field trip. Second-graders **Sebastian Whitehead**, **Jack Lyons**, and **Malachy Costigan** are in the schoolyard at St. Philip's School looking for the Kids Page, which was absent in the February issue. *Photo by Paula Whitehead*



Patty McCrary and **Dale Fehringer** enjoyed the breathtaking views at Machu Piccu in Peru. But their trip was somewhat marred by having to use their copy of the *Voice* to defend themselves against hordes of mosquitoes.



Jim Sorour paused while vacationing and visiting family in Lebanon. Among the sights he took in were the Roman ruins of Baalbeck in the Bekaa Valley.



High school English teacher **Daria Pennington** is back in the USA now and living in Glen Park after a summer trip to Paris where her constant traveling companion was a copy of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

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STORE TREK

By Laura McHale Holland

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month we introduce two centers for chiropractic medicine, one of which is sharing space with a midwife.

FITWELL CHIROPRACTIC AND SPORTS MEDICINE

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In 2004, after four years of building her chiropractic business on Church Street (across from Chloc's café), Lisa Covey moved Fitwell Chiropractic and Sports Medicine up to the corner of Noe and 22nd streets. "It's much nicer here up on the hill," she says. "We've got good views, and it's always good exercise for clients who come and see me."

Once inside, clients are greeted by Rikke Cox, Covey's office manager, and by Mette, a jet-black curly-coated retriever, who shares the sunny, orchid-lined reception area with Cox. "It's amazing the effect Mette has. She's really sweet. People sit down and pet her and calm right down," says Covey.

Covey, who lives on Castro Street, was drawn to her profession because of its basic philosophy, which holds that "the body has an innate capacity to heal itself," she says. "[Chiropractic medicine] is a way of augmenting what the body already knows how to do."

She also finds it deeply rewarding to help people get well. "It's seeing people leave the office with a smile on their face, seeing someone learn to trust their own instincts and their own decisions regarding their health."

In addition to doing spinal adjustments, Covey adjusts feet, hands, shoulders, elbows, hips, and knees. She uses several different techniques, including the popular "active-release" technique. "It's a way of mobilizing the soft tissue. Whenever there's trauma in the body, whether from surgery or an accident or repetitive strain, or even postural distortion, the body's natural response is the formation of scar tissue, which causes tissues to adhere to themselves as well as other structures," she says. "This is responsible for a lot of aches and pains that become chronic and can create a cumulative injury cycle. The active-release technique is a specific treatment protocol that's directed at removing those adhesions. I've found that it dovetails very nicely with chiropractic adjustment."

Covey also practices the Graston technique, which uses bevel-edged stainless-steel instruments and is gaining popularity with athletes, she says.

Fitwell has two treatment rooms, a massage therapy and Rolfing room (available for use by other massage ther-

apists), a progressive rehab room, and an x-ray room where patients can receive motion x-rays. "It's a fascinating technology that allows us to put joints through a range of motion, and if there's a ligamentous injury, we can see it through the aberrant motion of the joint."

Ultimately, Covey says, her work is about giving clients information. "The more information we can give people about their body's health and well-being, the more they're likely to be able to heal on their own."

Fitwell Chiropractic is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m.; and Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.fitwell.com.



Owner Lisa Covey (left) and office manager Rikke Cox, of Fitwell Chiropractic and Sports Medicine on Noe Street, say they often get help from their pet therapy director, Mette. Photos by Pamela Gerard

MORE MOJO CHIROPRACTIC

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www.moremojostudios.com
Wisewoman Childbirth Traditions
415-285-9233
www.wisewomanchildbirth.com

For weeks, neighbors have been stopping in at More Mojo Chiropractic at the corner of Church and Clipper streets and asking whether the new business is an art gallery because of the building's freshly painted gold-and-red exterior and the vibrant artwork hung on the walls inside.

"People get excited. They definitely sense a different kind of action going on inside the studio," says Darci Kendrick, who along with Kristine Hicks opened More Mojo's doors in Noe Valley on Jan. 2. The two chiropractors are sharing the space with midwife Maria Iorillo.

"It's a serendipitous union," Kendrick says. "Two years ago, Maria was the midwife for both my baby and for Kristine's baby, and here we are now all working together. Maria's very popular in Noe Valley because she's done a lot of home births here and she's done so much to get home birthing on the map."

Before the move, Kendrick, who lives in the Upper Market area, and Hicks, a

Bernal Heights resident, were sharing a Mission District office, called More Mojo Studios. Iorillo, who lives in Noe Valley, was sharing office space with Natural Resources on Diamond Street.

"Up on Diamond Street there wasn't a lot of walk-by traffic," says Iorillo, whose 20-year-old business is called Wisewoman Childbirth Traditions. "Since I delivered Darci and Kristine's babies, we've done a lot of cross-referrals, so coming together in this little hub of activity is really great. Overall we're wanting to make More Mojo an educational hub where people can not only get chiropractic and midwife care, but we're also going to hold classes and introduce alternative practitioners, particularly acupuncturists and homeopathic and naturopathic doctors, in the community."

Hicks and Kendrick see people in all walks of life, but Hicks focuses on families, seeing a large number of children and pregnant women. Kendrick emphasizes sports-related work, combining adjustments with soft-tissue work such as the active-release technique. "You'll see children running around here next to weekend warriors coming in with sports injuries," Kendrick says.

Hicks emphasizes that chiropractic care really is for people of all ages and that treatments for the very young tend to be subtler than those for adults. "Most people think chiropractic is just for back and neck pain, but it's about the nervous system. The reason we look at the back and neck is because that's where the brain stem and spinal cord are housed. We're nervous system doctors, and a healthy nervous system optimally reflects on every system in the body," she says.

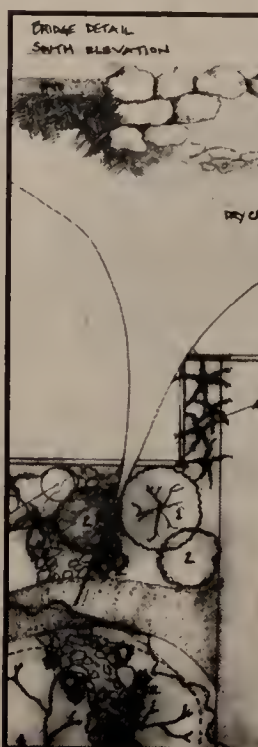
While Iorillo's consultation and examination rooms are private, most of the chiropractic adjustments are done in an open space. "We don't have walls separating our adjusting tables; you're part of a family of adjustments," says Kendrick. She quickly points out, though, that patients who need privacy are easily accommodated in a private room. "We have a com-



Chiropractors Darci Kendrick (shown holding daughter Olivia) and Kristine Hicks promise great synergy with midwife Maria Iorillo (right), at More Mojo Chiropractic, newly arrived on Church Street.

mon goal to participate in this community for a long, long time, and to strengthen this region as a haven for home birthing and natural health care. To have been so welcomed by the community already has been awesome," Kendrick says. "Church Street is an experience in and of itself. It's not just our practice. It's all the other practices and the restaurants and little cafes and the fact that this is an old neighborhood with roots. It just feels really good to be part of it."

Hicks' hours are Mondays and Thursdays, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5:15 p.m. Kendrick works Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And Iorillo is in the office from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as well as from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursdays.



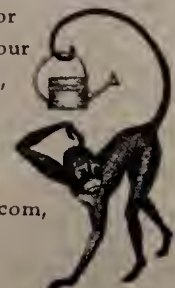
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Noe Valley Voice

Especially for Kids and Their Families

Written and Illustrated by Laura McCloskey

What's the Weather in Noe Valley?

The weather in Noe Valley changes all the time. One minute it's sunny. Then it's foggy. Another minute it's windy. The next it's cold and rainy.

Sun in Noe Valley

The sun causes the weather in Noe Valley. When the sun is high in the sky, it heats the earth. After the sun sets, the earth cools down. The heating and cooling caused by the sun's rising and setting helps make all the different types of weather, like rain, wind, and fog.

Rain in Noe Valley

Water in the air creates the clouds above Noe Valley, the white and sometimes gray-looking forms we see in the sky. Rain falls from the clouds above Noe Valley when the water in the clouds collects and forms into heavy drops.

The most rain on record in Noe Valley fell during the winter of 1861–62, when it rained 49.27 inches. In recent years, the 1997–98 season was the wettest. That winter, it rained 47.19 inches. January is usually the rainiest month in San Francisco, followed by February, December, and March. July is the driest month.

Fog in Noe Valley

Fog is a cloud that stays close to the ground. Fog forms in Noe Valley when warm, moist air from far out in the ocean moves over cooler water closer to the coast. The fog usually spreads over Noe Valley in the late evening and retreats back to the ocean in the morning, when the land grows warm.

Hills in Noe Valley

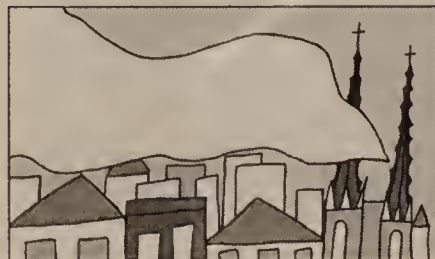
The hills encircling Noe Valley, and the ocean and bay surrounding the city, cause a pattern of weather in the neighborhood that is different from other places in San Francisco. For example, during the summer the fog covers many San Francisco neighborhoods all day long, while in Noe Valley the fog is often blocked by Twin Peaks. The twin hills create a barrier protecting the valley from wind and cooler air.

Snow in Noe Valley

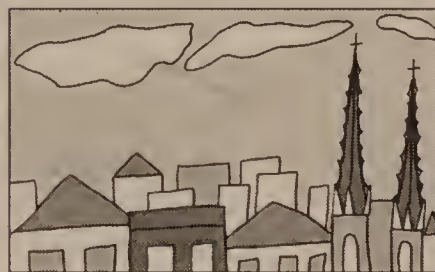
It rarely ever snows in Noe Valley, but it did snow a few times. It snowed more than 7 inches on top of Twin Peaks on Feb. 5, 1887. That was over a hundred years ago! The most recent time it snowed was 30 years ago on Feb. 5, 1976. Then it snowed 1 inch in downtown San Francisco and almost 5 inches on top of Twin Peaks.

Clouds in Noe Valley

When you see clouds over Noe Valley, it might mean it's going to rain or it might not.



Stratus clouds will cover the sky in a fluffy gray layer and will sometimes cause a coastal drizzle. When stratus clouds reach the ground, they are called fog.



Cirrus clouds are very high and wispy, and are not thick enough to cause rain themselves. Some people believe that if cirrus clouds make a halo around the sun, rain will come in a few days.



Cumulus clouds look like large balls of cotton, and they often cause rain. These clouds usually have round, lumpy tops and flatter bottoms.

Noe Niño or Niña

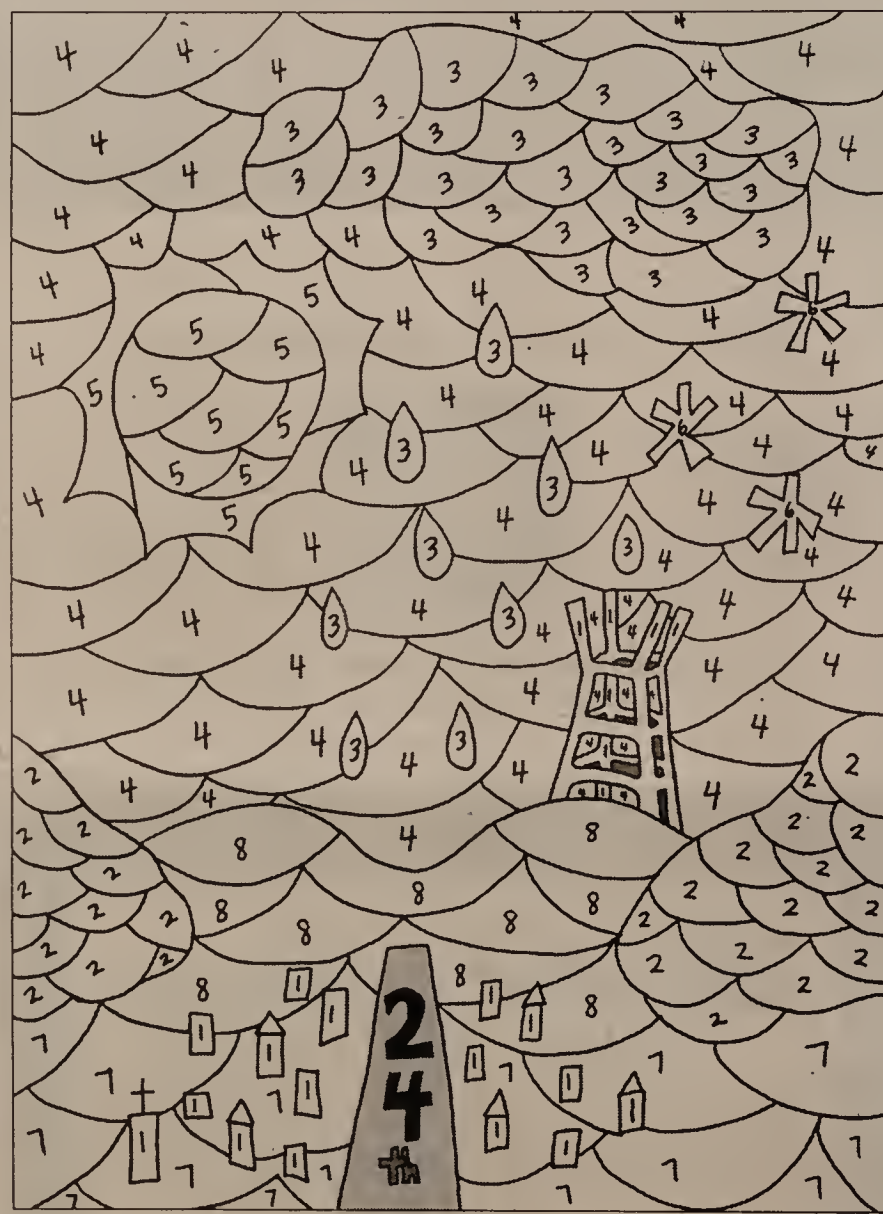
Weather experts use the words "La Niña" and "El Niño," which mean "the girl" and "the boy" in Spanish, to describe weather patterns we experience in the United States. El Niño is a weather pattern created by the rapid warming of certain parts of the Pacific Ocean. It can cause large amounts of rain (or extremely dry weather) during the winter and spring. Because Noe Valley is located midway down the Pacific Coast, it's hard to tell whether an El Niño will bring us rain or clear skies.

La Niña is a weather pattern caused by the cooling of certain parts of the Pacific Ocean. It may cause hotter and dryer weather in the southwestern United States and colder and stormier weather to the north. Scientists say we are having La Niña this winter and that the weather in Noe Valley is likely to be normal to dry this spring.

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How Do People Find Out About the Weather In Noe Valley?

Weather information is collected at a station run by the National Weather Service office located at the San Francisco Airport. The National Weather Service takes weather measurements, such as rainfall amounts, from 13 locations, two of which are very close to Noe Valley: Duboce Park and Mission Dolores.

For more information about the National Weather Service and for a weather forecast, go to www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/.

If you would like to find the current weather, visit the web site www.ozdachs.com/weather/.

If you would like to read some historical statistics on the weather in San Francisco, go to the site <http://ggweather.com>.

If you don't have a computer, listen to KCBS-740AM for weather updates.

A Tornado Near Noe Valley

Tornadoes do not usually happen in or near Noe Valley, but last year a tornado formed in South San Francisco, on March 21, 2005. The funnel-shaped windstorm, which rotated at rapid speeds of 70 to 110 miles per hour, flew over highway Interstate 280. The tornado caused a lot of damage to buildings, but no one was hurt.

★ THANK YOU ★

Special thanks to meteorologist Jan Null, author of *Climate of San Francisco* and of the Golden Gate Weather Services web site; John Monteverdi, professor at San Francisco State University; and the articles "Climate Experts Predict La Niña Phenomenon" (Feb. 2, 2006) and "Strong South San Francisco Weather Determined to Be Tornado" (March 21, 2005), by the Associated Press on SFGate.com.



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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Footprints and Fingerprints

In this column, reprinted from the April 1996 issue, Florence Holub traces the development of Dolores Heights and the hard work of neighbors to create a special use district.

The first feet to tread the hills of our valley were undoubtedly those of the Miwok Indians. I picture them searching the grassy slopes for the same small but deliciously sweet wild strawberries my brothers and I picked during the summer months when we were children.

José Noe, the man whose name we honor, also may have climbed to the heights to get a bird's-eye view of his rancho, which covered 4,400 acres stretching south from 16th Street and west from Valencia. He acquired the property as a land grant from the last Mexican governor of California in 1846.

Eight years later, following the discovery of gold and the arrival of shiploads of settlers, Noe sold his land to brothers John and William Homer, whose company built a large share of the earliest houses in Noe Valley.

In the 1880s, one of the first houses to go up on our hill, in the neighborhood we now call Dolores Heights, was a stately mansion built by Adolph Scheerer. Scheerer was one of San Francisco's more successful contractors, but he built his mansion at 450 Liberty Street (between Sanchez and Noc) the hard way.

The construction materials had to be shipped from the East Coast around Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America. Once they arrived here, the supplies had to be hauled up the face of an almost perpendicular slope using mules and chains.

When the house was completed, though, it must have been a grand place, both inside and out. In addition to the spacious rooms and fabulous views, the estate reportedly had an extensive garden, with many fountains and statues sprinkled among the trees and flowers.

The old building—but not the statuary—was still standing when we moved to our house on 21st Street in the 1950s. But about 10 years later, the property went up for sale.

It was then that my man Leo and I met Audrey Rodgers, a neighbor on 21st Street who was fighting to preserve the fine old landmark building.

In her 40s at the time, Audrey was a brilliant, energetic woman who left an indelible imprint on the hill. She was a housewife with two children. She also was a U.C. graduate with degrees in zoology and landscape architecture.

Audrey was amazing in other ways as well. She had an Irish terrier named Shaw (for George Bernard Shaw) whose fur she combed and saved. Then she had it spun into yarn, from which she knitted a beautiful sweater for her husband!

Her neighbors were so inspired by Audrey's passion and intelligence that we gladly pitched in to save the Scheerer mansion, which had great historical and architectural value. I remem-



ber painting a watercolor of the building to bolster Audrey's eloquent appeal before the San Francisco Planning Commission. Sadly, despite our efforts, the Scheerer house was torn down. However, due to Audrey's tireless negotiations with the developer, what might have been a series of stuccoed boxes in the middle of the 400 block of Liberty Street was transformed into an excellent example of modern housing.

The row of wood-shingled, brick-faced houses—each with bay windows, decks, and garages—was oriented to take advantage of a magnificent view of the city and bay. Also incorporated into the design was an intimate communal square, a tiny park with benches and flowers situated beneath two towering evergreens.

This lovely landscaped spot is only one of the places on the hill that shows Audrey's "fingerprints."

One year during summer vacation, when her young son Tim needed a challenging project, she suggested he clear the overgrown patch of vines and debris around the stairway at 20th and Sanchez streets. The spot was in dire need of attention, so Tim (now a doctor in Santa Barbara) agreeably spent his vacation vigorously weeding, hoeing, shoveling, and planting the green ground cover that has survived to this day.

Audrey was the first person to apply for underground wiring—and thus the removal of unsightly telephone poles—on her block of 21st Street between Noe and Sanchez.

But her most important legacy was the creation of the Dolores Heights Special Use District, a set of zoning rules designed to protect the environ-

ment and the unique mix of Victorian, Tudor, and modern dwellings on our hilltop.

In the late '70s, much to our chagrin, the Planning Department suddenly and inexplicably cut the neighborhood's backyard requirements in half. Audrey and I knew what that meant: if we didn't act fast, Dolores Heights would soon be highrises and condos.

We met to discuss the best strategy, and then Leo happened to put his hands on a 1971 report prepared by Planning Director Paul Jacobs. The report said Dolores Heights was one of several architecturally significant neighborhoods in the city that should be singled out for preservation.

Audrey and I formed a committee and, with the assistance of a number of local architects, drew up a set of building restrictions and boundaries for the special use district. (It runs loosely from 19th to 22nd and Church to Noe.)

For two years, we worked with the city, urging adoption of our plan. Audrey was the brains and I was the feet, running back and forth between the neighborhood and City Hall.

Finally in 1980, our special district was approved at a Board of Supervisors meeting. (Ours was the second one in the city, after Pacific Heights.) After the meeting, I went home to a sleepless night, during which I repeatedly awoke, exclaiming to myself, "We did it!"

The next day, still flush with victory, I went with my neighbors Janet Pera and Rhea Kley down to the Noe Valley Bar & Grill. We ordered a carafe of wine and toasted each other with many more rounds of "We did it!"

When I got home, I found a note in

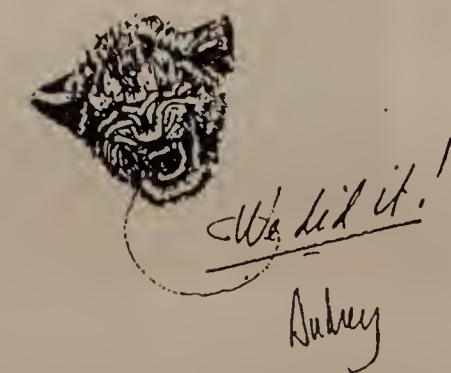
my mailbox, left by Audrey on her way to work, proclaiming, "We did it!"

Over the years, one of Audrey's goals was to fix up the public easement along the west side of Sanchez from Hill to 21st Street. For decades, the scruffy embankment had been a home for weeds and litter.

During the '60s, the "hippies" used the place as a campground for their vans. That would have been acceptable, had it not been for the garbage and other unhygienic refuse they left behind for the residents to clean up.

The untended area also served as a lovers' lane. One gray-haired older couple used to visit the spot on a regular basis each week. They would park their house trailer, then go into the enclosed living space in back. After a half an hour, they would emerge, get into the cab, and drive away. Over a six-month period, the neighbors became friendly with them, exchanging greetings as they came and went. One day, however, a resident who worked in a doctor's office thought she recognized the woman as a former patient. She could not refrain from asking, "Weren't you a patient of Dr. So-and-so?" Hastily and wordlessly, the couple climbed into the cab of their vehicle and departed. They were never seen again.

(I can't resist telling a story about another set of visitors to our lookout. One day, a resident I will refer to as Mr. Nosy was walking his dog in the area when he came upon two men engaged in an intimate exchange in the back of their station wagon. Mr. Nosy was peeking through the window when Ms. M.H.O.B.—Minds Her Own Business—came around the corner. "For shame, Mr. Nosy! This is an invasion of privacy." He retorted defensively, "I just wanted to see how they do it," and then continued his walk with his more discreet companion.)



Nowadays [1996], the embankment is sprinkled with flowers and cardboard tombstones, planted in protest over the housing development to be built on the southwest corner of 21st and Sanchez.

But Audrey's dream was to clean and landscape the spot, just like her son Tim had done to a similar plot 20 years before. Unfortunately, two months prior to starting the project, Audrey went into the hospital for minor surgery and failed to come out of the anesthesia. She died on Aug. 26, 1994, at the age of 71.

Audrey's wishes have not been forgotten, however. Her daughter, Janice Rodgers Braken, who lives in Connecticut, has commissioned a landscape architect to design plantings for the easement, and a sculptor who will carve a redwood bench, to be installed at the corner of Sanchez and 21st streets.

The bench will be a place for weary pedestrians who have just scaled the slope to sit and appreciate the magnificent view. It will also be a fitting memorial to a remarkable woman, Audrey Penn Rodgers, whose vision, integrity, and dedication have served and preserved the well-loved neighborhood called Dolores Heights.



Twenty-first Street resident Audrey Rodgers spent many long hours working to save landmark buildings and create a special preservation district in the neighborhood known as Dolores Heights. After her death in 1994, family and friends placed a garden and memorial bench at the corner of Sanchez and 21st streets.

Photo by Leo Holub

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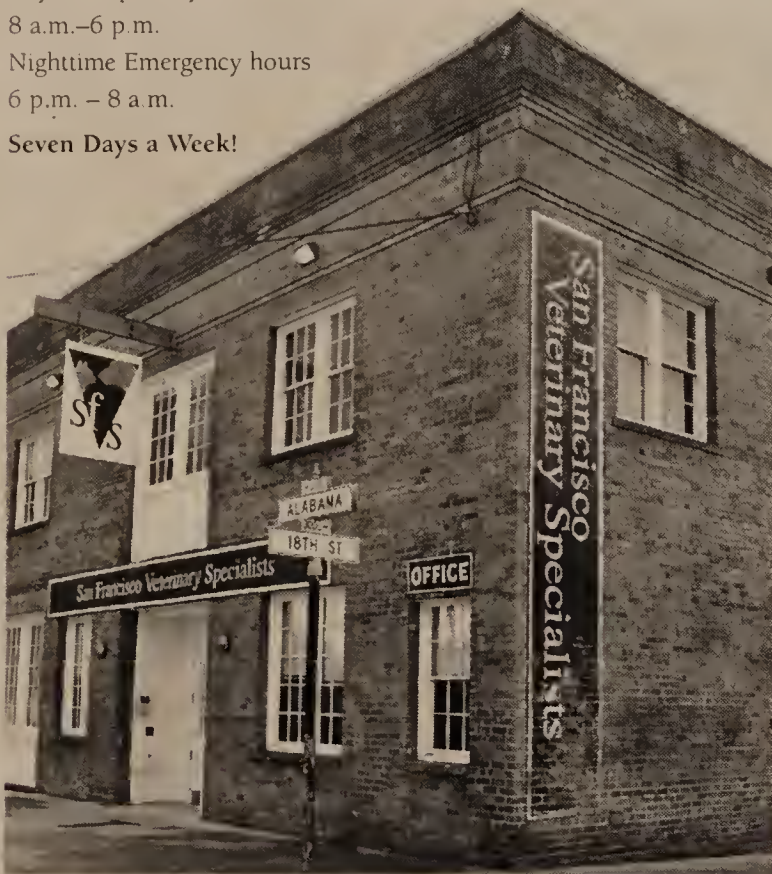
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Alvarado Read-a-thon

Show Us Your Books. Students in Miss Estes' first-grade class at Alvarado School showed off their favorite storybook covers for our photographer in February. The PTA helped make books available for all kids at Alvarado that month to help spark interest in reading. The big kid in the back row with the funny hat is actually mom Lisa Barry.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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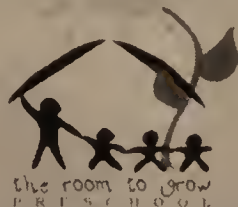
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SCHOOL REPORT

Here's the latest scoop on James Lick Middle School and Alvarado and Fairmount elementary schools, provided by school parents and volunteers.

ALVARADO

Students Hit the Books

There were a lot of pages turning at Alvarado Elementary in the last few days of February, as students raced toward the finish line in the school's annual Read-a-thon. Under the guidance of new principal Clementina Durón, who has made literacy her focus this year, the kids were bursting with enthusiasm over this wordy event.

The two-week competition got off to a colorful start on Monday, Feb. 13, with Literacy Club members dressed in colorful hats announcing the Read-a-thon at the morning assembly and then visiting all the classrooms to hand out reading logs and pledge sheets.

Lily Barry, who headed up the Read-a-thon this year, reported a very excited parent calling her to thank her for the event. The excited mom said, "Until tonight, my daughter had only read a few words at a time. She's so excited about the Read-a-thon that she took three books into her room tonight and read the first three pages of a chapter book!"

The students were working towards rewards for beating last year's total reading time of 35,621 minutes (that's almost 600 hours). The classroom with the most minutes was vying for a prize as well.

The Biggest Event of the Year

Mark Saturday, March 18, on your calendar, because that's when Alvarado's Not-So-Silent Auction will take place, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Fort Mason Conference Center in Landmark Building A.

We'll have both live and silent auctions, and live music with Ralph Carney's Gaucho Jazz Band. Some of the great auction items already donated include meals at local restaurants; hotel stays; kids' camps and activities; private wine-tastings and tours; gym memberships; and family portraits.

Tickets are \$15 in advance (purchase them in the front hallway March 13 to 17) or \$20 at the door. Donations are still being accepted—contact Mara by e-mail at alvarado2006auction@yahoo.com.

Watch for Trucks and Cars

Construction is under way at Alvarado funded by the Proposition A bond measure. Expect large trucks around the school in the coming months.

We have a morning drop-off zone to help alleviate the double parking on Douglass Street and around the school. Parents, please continue to pull around the corner of the school onto 22nd Street to drop your children off in the morning. The benefit to everyone is increased safety!

The annual rummage sale will still happen in mid-April despite construction; details to follow next month.

—Lisa Barry

JAMES LICK

Hola! from Costa Rica

From Feb. 16 to 25, a contingent of 50 James Lick students and their adult chaperones were busy exploring the rain forests, volcanoes, rivers, waterfalls, and



James Lick students show off their linocuts, block prints made by etching designs in linoleum. The art will be on display at Tully's on 24th Street this month. Photo by Alexandro Redfield Cohen

natural hot springs in Costa Rica, truly a paradise for anyone who loves the natural world. In the protected area of Tortuguero, they found themselves among monkeys, toucans, parrots, morpho butterflies, manatees, and sea turtles. Near the awe-inspiring Arenal Volcano, surrounded by magnificent rain forests, they felt the ground shake from the daily seismic shifting of the earth and occasional eruptions of steam, rocks, and hot lava. Our thanks go out to all who made these experiences possible by supporting our International Travel Program.

Linocuts on Display at Tully's

Congratulations to 15 talented James Lick artists whose striking black-and-white linocut prints are being exhibited through March at Tully's coffee shop on 24th Street (next to Bell Market). The sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders made their prints through a process called linocut, also known as linoleum cut. Students carve a design into a block of linoleum, and then roll ink over a printing plate to create an image.

Special thanks to the Ruth Asawa Fund, the James Lick PTSA, and the James Lick Merchant, Student, and Community Alliance, for making this project possible. A reception for the young artists will be held at Tully's on March 3 from 4 to 5 p.m. Contact Sandra Halladey at Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco at 468-7077 or www.ppsf.org

.org for additional information.

The sixth-grade students who participated in the show were Elizabeth Arelano, Andreas August, Emma Brenner-Bryant, Kristyne Cardenas, Emma Lanier, Jennifer Robles, and Julian Stickley. The seventh-graders were Madeleine Buck, Roberto Garcia, Isidro Johnson, Audrey Larkin, Marvin Sampedro, and Steven Tijerino. Noel Anderson and Jónathan Bosquez were the eighth-grade artists in the group.

Reading is FUN!damental

On Feb. 9, James Lick held the first of three monthly book giveaways sponsored by Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), a program that promotes reading for fun and recreation. Each language arts class is scheduled to come to the library for 10 minutes each month, and students may choose new paperbacks from tables filled with books. With support from the RIF Foundation, SFUSD, and the James Lick parent organization, over 1,600 new paperbacks have been provided.

Focusing on the Family

Principal Carmelo Sgarlato's monthly breakfast chat with parents on Feb. 17 emphasized family communication and connection. Marriage and family therapist Harriet Schatz was on hand to discuss family relationships and strategies to help

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

Live Oak School

Summer Oaks 2006



Dates

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

June 19 – August 11 (8 weeks)

Sixth through Eighth Grades

June 19 – July 28 (6 weeks)

Morning Session

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Lunch Break

12:00 noon – 12:30 pm

Afternoon Session

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm (3:00 pm

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Extended Care

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SCHOOL REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

families work together, become more resilient (and more positive), and balance the demands of the workplace with the challenges of raising young adolescents. Following her presentation, a representative from the Bay Fund advised parents on ways to get tutoring, mentoring, and funds for their children's education through the group. For more information on this and future presentations, contact Maria Camposeco, James Lick's parent liaison, at 695-5675.

Vintage Pirates Help Out Auction

Our 2006 auction was an enormous success, thanks to all the parents and staff who solicited donations, sold tickets, and volunteered to set up (and clean up), serve food, deejay the event, and do stuff on their computers. A thank-you also to the many Noe Valley merchants who donated items, especially the new donors.

Highlights of the auction included red-and-white vintage James Lick athletic bags from the bygone era when the school's athletes were called the Pirates, Asawa/Lanier family art donations, Mayor Gavin Newsom's donation of a private tour at City Hall, and Supervisor Bevan Dufty's tickets to a 2006 49er football game. But the Henderson kids and their friends stole the show with their amazing acrobatic skills! It truly takes an entire community to make this a successful event.

Keeping in Touch

If you'd like to get in on the action, call the school at 695-5675, leave a message

at 436-0349, or drop by 1220 Noe Street, near Clipper Street. Thank you for sharing your ideas, talents, enthusiasm, and support for our public schools.

—Sue Cattoche

FAIRMOUNT

Parents Turn Out for School Summit

More than 100 parents and staff members turned out on Friday, Feb. 10, to receive a progress report on Fairmount students' learning gains over the past year. Upon viewing data compiled by the California Standardized Testing Program, parents were delighted to find that all ethnic and language groups had made gains over the previous year. School Site Council Chair Ken Jones reported that language arts scores had risen 4.7 percent, while mathematics scores had improved 5.9 percent schoolwide. Dongshil Kim, Fairmount's instructional reform facilitator, provided an analysis that showed Fairmount's 6 percent gain for all English language learners was the second largest among the school district's six Spanish-immersion elementary schools.

A unique feature of the meeting was that it was held in Spanish with English-only-speaking parents receiving simultaneous translation from a bilingual parent on headsets provided by the SFUSD. The English-speaking parents gained an appreciation for how the Spanish-speaking parents usually obtain information at the school's translated meetings.

Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort attributed the strong academic gains to a new coordinated approach to the curriculum. The new approach had teachers from all grade levels forming teams and sharing teaching methods. They also adhered to the same language and math standards. In addition, the school this year grouped students by level, for more intensive lan-

guage learning, as well as supported two on-site literacy teachers to work with small groups of students needing extra assistance.

After the data presentation and an inspirational talk on parent involvement (by Noe Valley resident Ramon Martinez, who works in the district's parent relations office), the participants broke into smaller groups to discuss the ways parents and teachers could improve their ability to support student learning at Fairmount.

The night ended with an ice cream social. Earlier, the students had enjoyed pizza and a movie while their parents talked.

A second community summit will be held in March to discuss which of the ideas developed at the February meeting to implement and what budget priorities to suggest to the School Site Council for 2006-07.

Ballroom Dancing Coming to Fairmount

Fairmount, in conjunction with Brava Theater, is hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, April 2, at 3 p.m. at Brava Theater Center on 2781 24th Street in the Mission. New Line Theater has agreed to let the school premiere Antonio Banderas' new movie *Take the Lead* (see trailer at www.theleadmovie.com).

The money raised will be used for a pilot program in ballroom dancing for third- to fifth-graders. Dance teachers will come on-site and teach the classes. The course will initially be piloted as an after-school program, but the school hopes to also incorporate it into next year's curriculum.

Black History Month Showcased

Student musical performances, including a performance by the Fairmount Falcons Chorus, highlighted this year's Black History Month celebrations held Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Fairmount multipurpose room. Student artwork inspired

by African-American history was displayed, and the chorus sang with spirit and enthusiasm under the direction of Vernon Bush, youth chorus director at Glide Memorial Church. Class projects at school focused throughout the month on the achievement of African Americans.

Students Hits the Slopes

Fairmount families are joining together for a ski and snowplay trip the weekend of March 17-19 at the Sierra Club's Claire Tappan Lodge near Lake Tahoe. Fairmount parent Laurie Wigham, who is organizing the trip, also is coordinating a lending "library" of ski clothes and equipment, for parents who need to outfit their kids with appropriate gear for skiing and snowplay. If you have kids' snow clothing or equipment, please call the school to donate it to the library. And heads up for snowballs!

Calendar Notes

SFUSD schools will be closed Thursday, March 30, for a staff professional development day and will also be closed the following day, Friday, March 31, in honor of the birthday of Cesar Chavez.

—Tom Ruiz

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
Clementina Durón, Principal

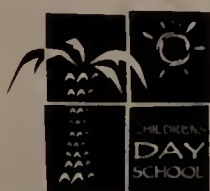
Fairmount Elementary School
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Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal

James Lick Middle School
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Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal



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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Now that the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street has closed for renovation (until late 2007), the *Noe Valley Voice* will be paying visits to other branches, as well as running after the local bookmobile, to find adult book selections for this 25-year-old column on new, and favorite, reads. We'll also be welcoming children's book suggestions from librarians Pam Ow and Karen Sundheim of the Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library. To find out if a book is available for loan, call the Eureka Branch (355-5616) or visit the San Francisco Public Library's web site, www.sfpl.org. The bookmobile is scheduled to be parked in front of St. Philip's School at Elizabeth and Diamond streets, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on interim services, call 557-4353.

NEW SELECTIONS

Children's Fiction

◆ Cynthia Rylant's *Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas*, illustrated by Suçie Stevenson, depicts a day of fun and companionship for a boy and his huge dog. Winner of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Beginning Reader Award. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ The loyal friendship between a girl and her horse is full of good-natured humor in *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa*, a Geisel Honor Book by Erica Silverman, with paintings by Betsy Lewin. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ A girl describes the special bond that develops over the years between her family and their cat in *Desser the Best Cat Ever* by Maggie Smith. *Ages 5 to 8.*

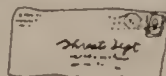
◆ In *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale, 14-year-old Miri and girls from her quarry town on Mt. Eskel are sent to be trained in the cultured life of a lowlander and compete for the heart of the Prince. While facing obstacles ranging from a cruel tutor to fierce snowstorms and attacks by bandits, Miri learns the secret of communicating through silent Quarry Speech, and discovers her own intelligence, strength, and beauty. A 2006 Newbery Honor Book. *Ages 10 to 14.*

Children's Nonfiction

◆ Learn about Cesar Chavez's inspirational life in *César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!* with poems by Carmen Bernier-Grand and shimmering art by David Diaz. A 2006 Pura Belpré Honor Book for narrative and illustrations. *Ages 8 to 11.*

◆ Celebrate Women's History Month by reading the brief profiles in *Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World*, by Cynthia Chin-Lee, illustrated by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy. *Ages 9 to 12.*

Children's Librarian Pam Ow
Branch Manager Karen Sundheim
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library



The Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library is located at 3555 16th Street (near Market). Hours are Mon. 12-6, Tues. 10-9, Wed. 12-9, Thurs. 10-6, Fri. 1-6, and Sat. 10-6. Phone: 415-355-5616.

Adult Fiction

◆ In *Too Soon From the Cave, Too Far From the Stars*, a collection of essays dating from 1962 to 2004, Ray Bradbury discusses his achievements in science fiction and his experiences living in Los Angeles and Paris.

◆ An introspective young woman gradually learns to make decisions and take responsibility for her life, in *Leaving Home* by Anita Brookner.

◆ Carl Shuker's debut novel, *The Method Actors*, is a historical investigation, love story, and international thriller set in turn-of-the-century Tokyo.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ First-wife Cynthia Lennon describes her 10-year relationship with John Lennon of the Beatles, in *John*.

◆ In *The Road to Reality: A Complete Guide to the Laws of the Universe*, Roger Penrose explains for the lay reader the mathematical theories behind physical matter, beginning with the roots of science.

◆ Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael Hiltzik examines *The Plot Against Social Security: How the Bush Plan Is Endangering Our Financial Future*.

—Karol Barske
Noe Valley Voice staff

LIBRARY EVENTS

Time for Stories and Lapsits

◆ Bethany United Methodist Church is the new site for the Noe Valley Library's regular programs for kids. *Preschool story time* for ages 3 to 5 will be offered at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 21, and 28. *Lapsits* for newborns to 3-year-olds will be held at 10:30 a.m., also on Tuesday, March 14, 21, and 28. All the fun happens at 1268 Sanchez Street, on the corner of Clipper Street.

Eureka Branch Extends Hours

◆ Starting Saturday, March 11, the Eureka Valley Library will be open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. (rather than 1 p.m.) to 6 p.m.

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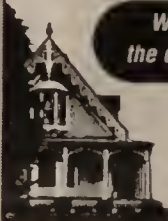
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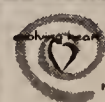
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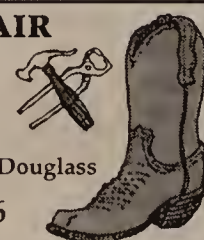
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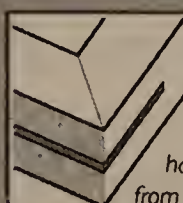
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Words Wanted: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of stories, poems, and essays. Write lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com or send manuscript, plus name, phone, and e-mail to Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Include SASE if you need materials returned.

How to Place a Class Ad

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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the April 2006 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before April 1.

The deadline for Class Ads is March 15, 2006. The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper edition and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.



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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org

Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
bership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn
Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month
(every other month—call to confirm), Noe
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month
(except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-
tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for information. The annual
Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day
before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Richard May, 206-0231
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
month (call or e-mail to confirm), Noe
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7 p.m.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 205 30th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Christina Gocbel, 826-7772
E-mail: christina_gocbel@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San
Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, noestrolls@aol.com.
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of the month,
1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices
of other events, e-mail your first name, and
your baby's first name and age, to noestrolls@aol.com or go to www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rafael Mandelman, 648-4010
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month;
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Co-sponsor: Noe Valley Ministry
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
6 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the

San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
San Francisco, CA 94102

Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month,
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 6:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th
St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month,
Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Parent Network

Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com (this is an e-
mail resource network for parents)

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

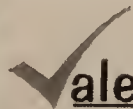
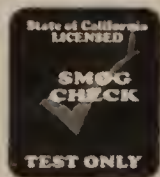
Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet
at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk
route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call
to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center,
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Back to the Future at Bell

By Mazook

AS WE MARCH from Fat Tuesday to April Fool's Day, the NVBI is still unsure who, when, and whether somebody will be taking over Bell Market on 24th Street. As you may recall, the store was among the nine Bell/Cala stores in San Francisco that the Ralphs grocery chain, headquartered in Compton, Calif., put on the chopping block last fall.

Ralphs, which is owned by the super-market giant Kroger Co., is apparently quitting the grocery business in Northern California, and has been closing or selling off stores throughout the area.

Meanwhile, our neighborhood leaders and politicians, along with the mayor's office, have been salivating to have a say in the future of our local Bell (see last month's front-page story in the *Voice*), but their efforts thus far have proved fruitless, and vegetableless, too.

Local groups, led by Friends of Noe Valley, had planned for five local grocers to attend a community meeting on Feb. 16 and make presentations about their dreams to acquire Bell's spot. But only one—Mikeytom Market—showed up, so Mikeytom got the groups' endorsement to "make an offer" to Ralphs.

However, when Friends of Noe Valley President Richard May informed Richard Hillis from the Mayor's Office of Eco-

nomics Development about the consensus of the meeting, Hillis, who was already lobbying on behalf of the Noe Valleons, replied that the lettuce was wilting.

"According to the representatives at Kroger/Ralphs, they are not 'accepting' new offers, and they are negotiating with a potential buyer," wrote Hillis to May via e-mail. "That does not mean that Mikeytom or any other operator cannot submit an unsolicited offer."

Hillis went on: "Unfortunately, Kroger/Ralphs will not provide us with a bid package or any other documents that might help guide an offer, so I may not be much help in crafting a proposal."

Clearly, that warm and cozy meeting of around 50 friends and neighbors on Feb. 16 was not reflective of the cold, hard reality: Decisions regarding Bell's future are being made elsewhere, and Noe Valley is way far down on the food chain.

In February, the Cala at Geary and Fourth Avenue was shut down and Ralphs' grocery workers in the Sacramento area were given notice that their stores would close by April.

This caused major uneasiness among the staff at our Bell, as workers from other closed Ralphs stores began being transferred to 24th Street. But when local leaders made contact with the owners of the Bell building, the owners reportedly said no prospective buyers had contacted them about taking over Ralphs' lease, which is set to expire in three years.

Then, in mid-month, several new faces appeared in a group of business folk taking a tour of the 24th Street store. While there is still a wall of silence surrounding Bell's fate, rumors are now rippling through the neighborhood that the "potential buyer" is that group of investors seen walking through the store. The tour group was headed by grocer Harley Delano, and the rumor mill has it that he and his group will be taking over most, if not

all, of the Bell/Cala stores still remaining in Northern California.

Delano, who lives in the East Bay, would be no stranger to Noe Valley (or the site's landlord), since he headed the company that purchased the business from the original Bell owners in 1989. He then merged Bell with Cala Markets, and 10 years later sold the whole bunch to Ralphs/Kroger.

If this deal were to go through, it would be a big relief to our local crew, whose fate has been hanging somewhere between Mikeytom and Mollie Stone. Many of Bell's current employees and their union, UFCW Local 648, worked under Delano's old regime.

Attempts to reach Delano for comment were unsuccessful.

By April Fool's Day, we should know if we're back to Sunnyside Farms for a while. What will happen when Ralphs' current lease is up in 2009 is anybody's guess.



GREAT BATTLES IN HISTORY: There was a tug of war over the Noe Valley Archives at the beginning of February, between its primary donor, Paul Kantus, and the San Francisco Public Library.

As you all know, the Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street is closed for remodeling. Everything in it had to be moved out by the last day of operation, Feb. 11, including our neighborhood's historical archives, which is a collection of old photos and artifacts started about 25 years ago by the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Friends of Noe Valley.

In preparation for this day, Kantus met with library staff last year and informed them that he would be removing the materials and storing them at the Diamond Street offices of local author Bill Yenne during the library's renovation. Howev-

er, when Kantus arrived at the library on Thursday, Feb. 2, to remove the memorabilia, it was gone.

Kantus says he was quite surprised, so he quickly got on the phone to Yenne. Soon they determined that the mementos had been packed up and carted off to the Main Library's History Room. Both Kantus and Yenne then became very upset and made demands for an immediate meeting with City Librarian Luis Herrera.

By the following Monday, Kantus and Yenne had rattled everybody in City Hall so much that a meeting was set up for Wednesday. But later that Monday, Herrera called Kantus and told him that all the materials would be returned.

"He said that he would have the seven boxes of materials delivered to me and that he was sorry about the misunderstanding," says Kantus. "Herrera said words to the effect that he didn't want a revolution out in Noe Valley."

Finally on that Wednesday, the Archives were returned to Kantus, in care of Bill Yenne's office, by two painters from the Department of Public Works, who said the Main Library had asked them to drop off the boxes on their way to a painting job.

No hard feelings from Kantus, though. He's just happy to have the stuff back in the neighborhood. "Two authors are coming by next week to look through the material, one of whom is doing a history of the Irish in San Francisco," he says.



THE LOWDOWN ON UPTOWN: Speaking of Mikeytom, which we were, notices are up in the window of the store's former location on Church and Day, that an application is being made by Church Day Solutions LLC for a beer and wine license for "an eating place." The notice was post-

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ed on Feb. 22, which means that after almost three years of vacancy, building owner Peter Kung has finally agreed to take on a new tenant.

"We are very pleased that the store has finally been rented," says Upper Noe Neighbors President Vicki Rosen. "When I talked to Peter Kung, he seemed to indicate that it was going to be some kind of café, so finally it will be occupied."

The other big Upper Noe news is that Verona Restaurant at Church and 30th is closing after a 20-year run. Andy Kapiniaris and his wife Mimi are retiring and turning over the keys to Massimiliano Conti and his wife Natalina Dogan from Sardinia. They'll be reopening the restaurant with a new menu that features personal gourmet pizzas and, according to Kapiniaris, "lots of interesting wines."

Meanwhile, Kapiniaris says that he and Mimi are going to Greece for a much-needed vacation. "And when we come back, we are going to spend a lot of time with our children. I have very mixed feelings about leaving the neighborhood, after spending so much of my time here, but new blood is good, and I will come by and visit."

Another new restaurant is rumored to be moving into the space vacated by Long Island Restaurant on Church near 29th Street. Word is the menu will be decidedly French.



THE MENU AT KOOKEZ CAFE will be decidedly American. This new eatery opens March 1, filling the space vacated in January by Miss Millie's Restaurant at 24th and Castro.

Kookez (pronounced just like Famous Amos's) will serve "coast-to-coast American cuisine," like Boston Clam Chowder, Frisco Bay Burgers, Texas Tri-Tip, Bayou Butter-BQ Dippin' Shrimp, Maine Seafood Linguini, Old-Fashioned Chicken Pot Pie, and Georgia BBQ Baby Back Ribs.

These culinary delights are the creation of Noe Valley resident Lynn Marie Presley, who was a regular at Miss Millie's.

"I come from four generations of café owners and chefs, and I wanted to create a unique dining experience for the neighborhood," says Presley (no relation to The King). Dinner is served Wednesday through Saturday from 5 to 9:30 p.m., and on Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday is family night, with kids' specials on the menu. Kookez is also serving weekend brunch from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Down at the other end of 24th Street, Matsuya sushi restaurant has closed after nearly 30 years on 24th Street. Its owner, Fusai Ponne, has retired. The sign on the front door says that the space "will reopen next month," but it's hard to tell which month that will be, since the sign is now two months old.

Matsuya, the first sushi palace (or rather, nook) in Noe Valley, has a devoted following, and many residents will consider its passing a real loss.



OF FROCKS AND HAIRS: Changing hands is Peek-a-Bootique at 1306 Castro, which has been a mainstay for kids' wear in Downtown Noe Valley since 1990. Paul and Barbara Morgan are passing the tiny jammies and snuggles to Linda Russell and Mike Stanton, who have remodeled and reopened the store.

Says Paul, "After 15 years, the time was right to sell. The kids have all grown up, so we decided to move on and relax for a while."

Alicia Elliott has closed her Bamboo

hair salon on Diamond near 24th Street, to spend more time with her family. In her wake will come a new group of haircutters, over the waves.

Here's wishing Noe Valley barber Mike Skoufas a speedy recovery from the surgery he had last month. Skoufas started cutting hair around here in 1952, and now shares a shop with his daughter Stephanie, Of Barbers and Bears, just up 24th Street from Castro.

Stephanie says she will keep up with her dad's appointment calendar while he is out, so if you haven't gotten an answer to your Monday calls to Mike, call Stephanie during the rest of the week.



BLING IN THE NEW: Making a big move in Downtown Noe Valley is jewelry designer Gilbertina Guarini. She's expanding Qoio from the tiny studio and retail store below Artsake, across from Bell, to a much larger space up the street, closer to Castro. The new store will occupy the site of Cottage Industry (with the rickshaw out front), which was once upon a time the home of our old post office.

She and her husband, Bruno Guarini, bought the place last month, and marked everything 50 percent off. "It will take us a few months to liquidate all the stock from that business, so there are some good bargains," Gilbertina says. "Then we will be remodeling the store exclusively to display my jewelry. All of my work is original and one-of-a-kind." The new Qoio will have a garden in the back, with trees, fountains, stone buddhas, and places to sit. "It's going to be beautiful. If a woman is looking at the jewelry in front, perhaps her husband will like to go have tea in the garden," says Gilbertina.

Almost 10 years ago, the Guarinis opened an import shop on Columbus Avenue in North Beach, "where we have done quite well," says Bruno. "Over there my wife started making jewelry, and we

found that it became very popular with our customers, so she decided to open her own studio in Noe Valley. She has found a growing clientele for her works, so we are expanding."

Bruno says everything in Cottage Industry is up for sale except the rickshaw. "I originally imported that piece for them [Cottage Industry] when they started, and it is one piece I want to keep."

The couple say they are very excited about being able to work in the neighborhood where they are raising their two daughters, Natalie, 7, and Kirsten, 10.

"I love Noe Valley," says Gilbertina. "We will still maintain the studio, which has an apartment and a back yard, and our kids will be going to school close by at James Lick Middle School. They can walk over to the store after school."

Qoio, in case you wondered, is the Mayan god of the moon.



THAT'S THIRTY for March. It was 25 years ago that I wrote my first Rumors column, in the March 1981 edition of the Voice. That makes me somewhat archival. The back issues of the Voice have been taken downtown to the Main Library for safekeeping, so if you want to read that first column, or the first Voice in 1977, you can hopefully find it in the History Room at the Main Branch.

Back in '81, life in Noe Valley was so simple. One of my first items was a list of comments dropped in the suggestion box at Herb's Fine Foods (e.g., "More jus on the Roast Beef au Jus"). Another was the question: Why is the Noe Valley Market in Eureka Valley?

Well, Herb's, the Noe Valley Market, and Rumors Behind the News are still in the same places they were 25 years ago. Are we all going back to the future, or forward to the past?

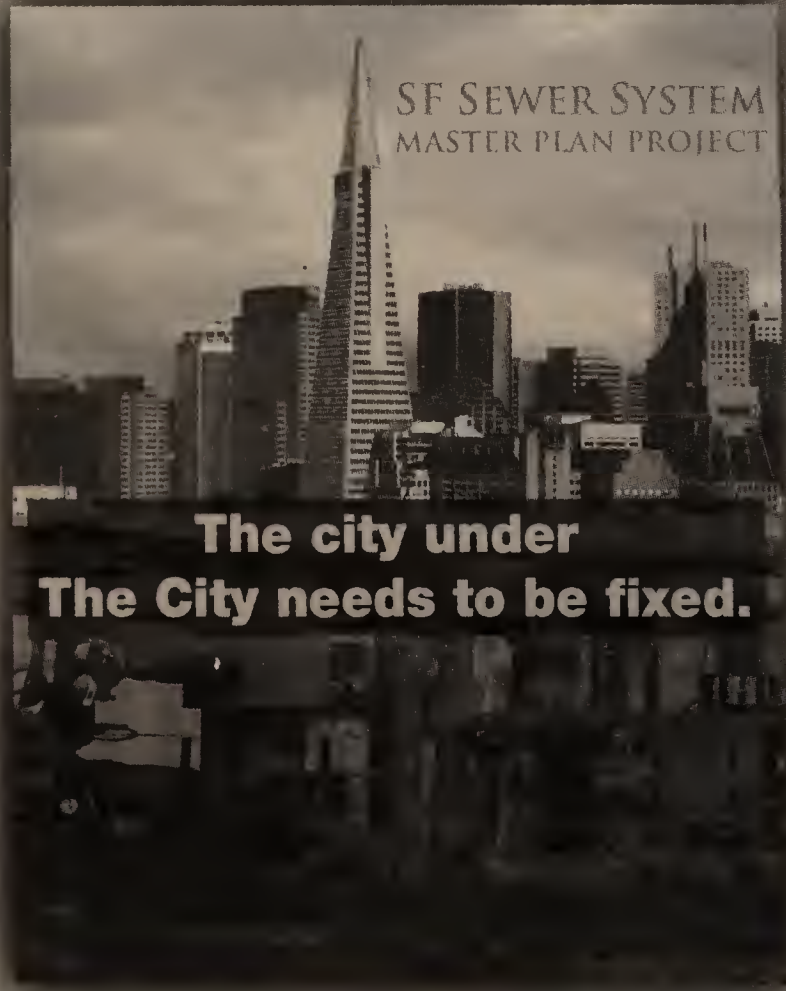
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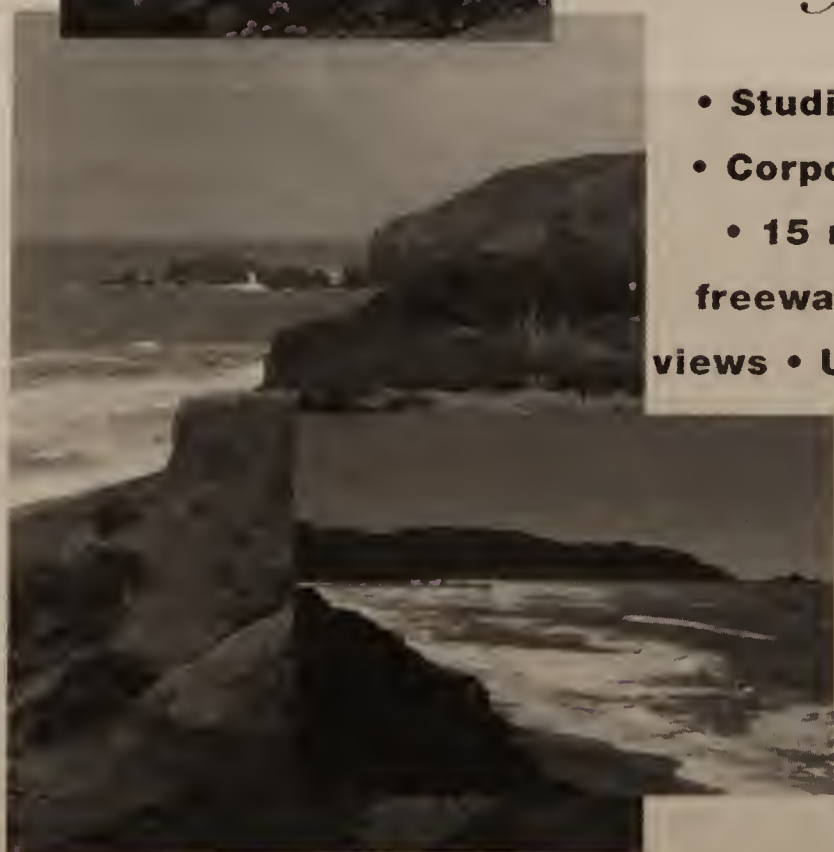
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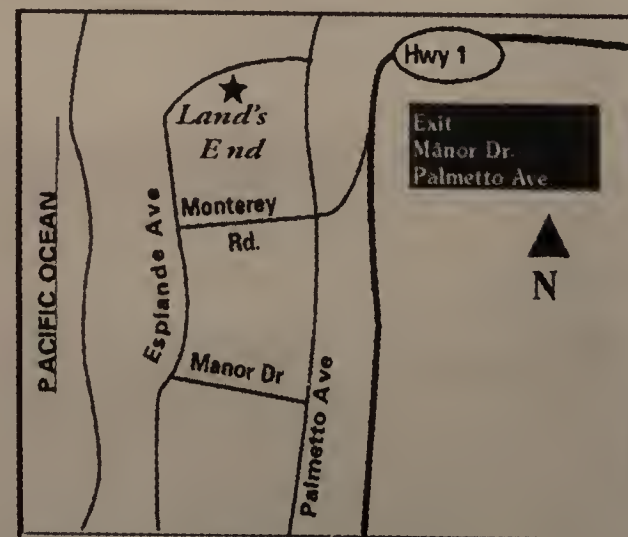
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THE LAST PAGE

CARA AND I WENT to my granddad's and tried to get Mrs. Jam, his landlady, to let us into his apartment. It was afternoon, June 1999. A ghostly bit of warmth managed to find its way through the early summer fog.

We stood just on the inside of the smell zone. Mrs. Jam's couch had the remains of her shwilly life stuffed inside the crevices, and the place reeked like a rotting pier. I kept my arm around Cara.

"Can't do it." Mrs. Jam shook a little. Wore a blue nightgown and a big plaid jacket.

Last month I had watched *Jeopardy* with Mrs. Jam, curled up on her couch. Helped her fix her antenna. And now she was squeezing me out.

I tried to get through to her. "We aren't gonna bite. You want something from the store?"

"Your grandfather said he's not letting you stay with him anymore." Mrs. Jam's bird-claw hands crumpled a Kleenex from her big plaid pocket. She turned around and looked through a pile on her table. Her hands shook back and forth, grasping at an envelope with my name.

I stepped over and reached for it. "So what now?" I grabbed the note and stuffed it in my jacket pocket. My granddad was probably going to meetings and getting clean again.

Mrs. Jam didn't answer. She looked outside. "Is your friend sick?"

Cara had wandered away and was bent over on the stairs, spitting on one of her knees and rubbing it. She had this thing where she rubbed her legs over and over.

"You girls shouldn't even be on my property."

I walked down the stairs to my granddad's in-law apartment and tried to get the window open, which was stupid because there were bars on it. So I went to his front door and kicked it hard. Bam!

"Let's go. I'm hungry." Cara squinted down at me from the stairs, her long brown hair falling over her face. Behind her I could see the fog-smeared hill. A little smile curled on her mouth as if she heard a good song playing. "Come on, Gir-r-r-l."

I crumpled the envelope with my granddad's handwriting and threw it on the sidewalk. Mrs. Jam poked her head out the door.

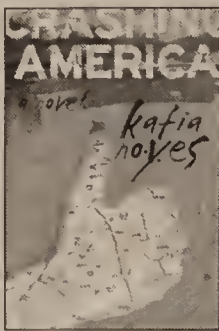
"I need to get my stuff sometime," I yelled. "I'll be back. You'll have to let me in." I had some clothes in there and Flopsy, my old raggedy sleeping companion.

Cara took my hand and blinked like a cat. We walked down the hill. She always knew how to chill. Cara never believed in giving in when bad things happened. She just scrawled another mark on one of her legs. The wavering star on her ankle, the Taurus sign on her calf, the snaking branches wrapped around her thigh. Every time something bad happened, she made a tattoo. "They make me safe again," Cara would say. She rubbed them all the time.

After my first arrest for being Beyond Parental Control, it was Cara who came all the way back to Redding to hang with me. By then, I was crashing in the semi-carpeted chicken coop outside the big house, way outside of my dad's latest girlfriend, Marianne, and her kids, and the kitchen, and the big happy family my dad was trying to make. (My Clorox-smelling dad. Mistah White Socks, Cara called him.) Enough of that. Enough of trying to be some funkabilly punk corpse, with my eyes locked up, in a town on the way-too-far edge of the Trinity Mountains. Easygoing Cara came to rescue me, helped me open my eyes and see again. Got a ride in the back of a pickup—over the Golden Gate Bridge at midnight, heads up out of the blankets. Be-you-tee-full, as my granddad would say.

Crashing America

BY KATIA NOYES



This month's Last Page features an excerpt from Crashing America, a novel by Laidley Street author Katia Noyes. The book, published last fall by Alyson Books, is a finalist for the Northern California Book Award for Fiction and has been named a Book Sense Notable. The novel chronicles the adventures of Girl, a 17-year-old street punk who decides to run away from her turbulent life in San Francisco and seek out "a sense of home" in the American heartland. During her travels, she stumbles across an assortment of characters, from Christian punk rockers to landlocked farmers. "Unlike the usual story about a young person coming to California, the book is about a vagabond's pilgrimage to the middle of the country," says Noyes. Noyes will discuss her own adventures, before and after Crashing America, at a wine and cheese reception at Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro Street, on March 31, at 7 p.m.

As we walked down the hill, Cara rambled on. "You smell her breath?" She blinked at me again and held my hand tight. "You kookamonga. Shwilly old Bird Beak told you this was going to happen. So did your granddad. Remember, Girl. Gir-r-r-rl. You don't listen to what people say. You get so mad. Way too ma-a-ad."

"Yeah, sure."

"Here's my theory about our new home. Do you want to hear it?" Cara sucked on a long brown strand of hair. She always had theories. "Everything in the city is connected to our underground place, all the pipes and Muni stations. It's a labyrinth. We need to explore it further."

I waited as Cara bent over her sandal in the middle of the street. Her eyes went far away, in one of those exotic mute looks that guys liked.

"Really?" I said. "Tell me more." She liked to talk about our special place in the Castro Street Station, a nook we'd found down in the tunnel. Cara found it cozy, but I hated hearing the trains running through the night.

We meandered down to the corner store on Mission, and Cara chattered on about her dreamy labyrinths. I couldn't listen. All I could think about was how much I was going to miss my granddad's hot shower and soft blankets.

With the last of my spare change, I bought us a bag of trail mix at the corner store. We were both sleepy from partying all night with Angus and his new guy.

We climbed back up Coso Street to sneak under the crawl space of the Winfield house. With driftwood-colored shingles and wide dirty windows, the house perched on cement-pillar stilts and looked ready to collapse. Rocks and weeds gathered under its hollow foundation, a crawl space where we had slept a couple times in the dark. Now it was light and people might see us sneak underneath and call the skunkers, but I didn't care. We wouldn't get arrested—they'd just tell us to move on.

Cara and I snuggled up by the stilts and we talked serious. What were we going to do?

I suggested we head right to Nebraska.

"All we need is some money." I looked at the weeds around us. "I want to see the cornfields."

Cara twisted her hair around a finger. "You and your cornfields!"

"Yeah." I tapped Cara's ankle star a couple times for luck. "Let's leave soon. Anywhere."

After losing my granddad's place for good, I knew it was time to get on the road and leave San Francisco for real, or I would implode. Had to do something with my last months' living on the mudball planet.

I let Cara hold me tight, as if she could keep me close forever. "Gi-r-r-rl. Gi-r-r-rl," she chanted.

I REMEMBERED LAST YEAR when I showed Cara the Winfield house the first time. We stood arm in arm, and I told her all about it.

"My mom had me the all-organic method, right on the couch, right there in the living room." I pointed over the high deck to the big dirty windows. Never showed anyone my birthplace before. I usually even avoided walking by. "My first look at the world."

I didn't tell Cara how I cringed when I saw the house, how I wanted to go up to the door, break it down with a battering ram, kick the people who lived there out. Make it mine. I didn't tell her because she'd make fun of me, make fun of how much my eyes locked up when I got mad.

I described the view from inside, how great it was to look down from the deck at the color and flurry of Mission Street, over at the pearly skyscraping buildings of downtown, and way over to the westward mounds of Twin Peaks. The truth was that I only wished I could remember being inside.

"So...yeah." Cara sucked on her pretty brown hair and blinked. "You really lived there?"

"It's kinda nice knowing you came from some place."

"Gi-r-r-rl...look." Just then more sunlight broke through the morning fog.

The beyouteefull mockery of light touched everything—our faces, the hill, the chrome on the cars. Fresh. Oh, yeah. So Saaan Fraaancisco. You could call it a god tease, a sea-smelling drift of visible gold. Up above us, the house had looked almost wet from the sun. Even the weeds glistened underneath its high deck. The big, dirty windows faced us, making glint, glint, glint. And we drank in the smell of the Pacific, a salty whiff, flying all the way across town.

Yes. The sunlight was holy, even when I wasn't up to being part of it.

About the Author

Katia Noyes, 47, is a Bay Area native who has worked as a go-go dancer, roofer, math tutor, journalist, and volunteer counselor for runaway youth. She shares her Upper Noe/Glen Park home with a cat named Wolf. When hanging out in Noe Valley, she likes "wandering down the streetcar tracks to Dolores Park, taking friends for libations at Bliss Bar and Lovejoy's Tea Room, and stroller-dodging on Saturday mornings." In addition to *Crashing America*, she has written a book for young adults called *Snooky*. "It's a fantasy about two girls who learn how to fly." Currently, Noyes is working on a novel set in 1999 Belgrade in the midst of the Bosnian war. "There are four main characters, all of whom are idealistic people with vision who are taking risks with their lives," she says.

You can meet Noyes on March 31 at Cover to Cover bookstore (see above). Meanwhile, check out her blog/writer's diary at www.crashingamerica.com.

—Olivia Boler

